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Toronto metro

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2015

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metro EXCLUSIVE

INTO THE TWILIGHT ZONE

In conversation with Stephenie Meyer
metroLIFE

BRING IT!

As the Jays gear up to take on Texas in their first playoff game since '93, Metro has all you need to know — See metroNEWS, metroBUSINESS & metroSPORTS

CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Red flow drowning NDP in T.O.

ELECTION 2015

Liberal surge bad news for Olivia Chow and her party

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Toronto is seeing red — and bleeding orange.

Pollsters tell Metro the Liberals are leading in a number of key ridings in and around the city, a trend that bodes well for the party as a whole.

"In the downtown 416, if the Liberals win those seats, it means we're seeing a Liberal trend, and it will either be a Liberal government or opposition," says Forum Research president Lorne Bozinoff.

Liberal gains in Toronto are bad news for the NDP, which had high hopes for picking up seats in the region, said Mainstreet Research vice-president David Valentin. Now it looks like the party's struggling to hold on to what it has.

"Forget about picking up Scarborough Centre — the NDP is going to need help holding on to Scarborough Southwest," he said. "They could be down to three or four seats by the time this is over."

Nowhere is the trend more visible than in Spadina-Fort York, where Olivia Chow is carrying the orange flag against the Liberals' Adam Vaughan.

"In August, Olivia had a 20-point lead, but when we last did that poll, she was only leading Vaughan by about five points," Bozinoff said, adding the riding has become a "coin flip."

Both pollsters said the federal Liberals have borrowed a page from Premier Kathleen Wynne's playbook and outflanked the NDP on the left.

"The date everything started changing was the date (Justin) Trudeau announced he was going to run a deficit," Valentin said.

The strategy has likely lured progressives away from the NDP, Bozinoff said, but he noted Trudeau's "middle class" rhetoric has also allowed the party to siphon votes from the Conservatives elsewhere in the GTA.

"The middle class is the 905 and outer 416," he said. "It's the perfect foil to position themselves against the Tories."

If Trudeau and the Liberals can win back some ridings in the 905, Bozinoff said they will likely prevent the Conservatives from winning another majority.

metro PLUS
The tightest races, page 8
READY TO ENGAGE, page 14

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

Britain is the best place to die, study suggests. **World**

PREMIER

Closed events a mistake: Wynne

Premier Kathleen Wynne now says it was a communications mistake that led to the media being shut out of all three events she has scheduled today with a Communist Party official from China.

Wynne said on Tuesday night that Ontario agreed to exclude reporters from her meetings and events with Luo Zhijun — Party Secretary of Jiangsu province — because the Communist Party asked.

However, Wynne said Wednesday morning she had assumed the media would be welcome for a quick photo op of her meeting with Luo, and her schedule was amended late Tuesday to add the media availability.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canadian auto companies under investigation

Ontario's environment ministry is investigating Volkswagen Canada and Audi Canada for selling cars with software designed to bypass the vehicle's emissions controls.

The province is asking the companies to detail whatever actions they plan to take to fix the cars that don't meet emissions standards. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mission to plant, care, give

ENVIRONMENT

New campaign urges residents to keep urban forest growing

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Imagine a greener Toronto.

That's the theme of a new, two-week campaign sweeping through the streets of Toronto. The aim: Capturing peoples' attention and engaging them in efforts to expand green space.

If that means taking to public street art, so be it. LEAF – Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests – has partnered with the City of Toronto for the campaign, running both on the streets and on Twitter.

Images of tree shadows will be painted on murals and sidewalks around the city, with the caption "Imagine a Greener Toronto" screaming across.

They will also appear on screens in TTC subway stations, while campaign organizers run Twitter discussions on what people can do to keep the urban forest growing.

"We really want to capture people's imagination, and that's one of the things art can do," said Janet McKay, LEAF's executive director.

Having individuals participate in the growth of the urban forest is vital, she said.

Of an estimated 10.2 million trees covering Toronto, nearly 60 per cent are found on privately owned properties.

Toronto has millions of trees, but the two-week initiative is calling on everyone to do their part in greening the city — from planting a sapling in their backyard to adopting and caring for a street tree. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In 2013, the city's tree canopy cover was estimated at 27 per cent with the goal of increasing it to 40 per cent by 2050.

"The important thing is not just the number of trees," said McKay, "but the public involvement in protecting what we already have and continue to plant more."

Sustainability becomes even more important when you add inevitable complications such as winter storms and the infamous emerald ash borer, she said.

LEAF's green efforts are summed up in three words: Plant, Care, Give.

The non-profit is encouraging people to plant at least one tree in their backyard, adopt and care for a street tree and donate to their urban forest fund to support educational and stewardship programs.

"People have busy lives but simple things can go a long way in growing and protecting our trees," she said.

Sidewalk paintings like this one in Regent Park are designed to draw attention to an effort led by LEAF and the City of Toronto. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Federal leaders aren't addressing the issue adequately, a report says. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Child poverty hits T.O. hard: Study

CAMPAIGN 2000

Five ridings in city and 30 in Canada have rates above 19%

A whopping 30 federal ridings in the GTA have child poverty rates above the national average of 19 per cent, according to a new report.

Yet none of the federal leaders has adequately addressed the problem facing 1.3 million Canadian children, says the report by Campaign 2000, which for the first time maps child poverty riding by riding across the country.

The national non-profit coalition of more than 120 organizations has been urging Ottawa to develop an action plan since 1989, when Parliament first pledged to eradicate child poverty by 2000. All federal parties renewed the pledge in 2009 and again in February this year, and yet child poverty rates remain stubbornly high, the coalition says.

"Child poverty is often seen as an urban problem ... but this shows it is a reality throughout the whole GTA and across the whole country," said Anita Khanna, Campaign 2000's national co-ordinator.

"It is located in every community in every riding, and it's up to each federal party to recognize that and exercise federal leadership to level the playing field for children and their families," she said.

Seven Ontario ridings — including five in Toronto — are among the 15 ridings with the highest concentrations of children living in poverty.

Child poverty rates ranging from 35 per cent to almost 40 per cent are concentrated in Toronto's downtown, northwest and southeast ridings, according to the report, which uses Statistics Canada's 2013 income tax data and the 308 federal ridings in place at the time. (Ottawa's recently revised electoral map now has 338 ridings.)

Father of two Drow Zadoorian, 36, came to Toronto from Armenia with his family a year ago under Canada's skilled worker program.

And yet the former university lecturer, with degrees in education, psychology and theology, says employers in his field won't hire him due to his lack of Canadian experience.

When he applies for menial jobs to pay the bills, he is rejected because he lacks the skills. As a result, the family, which lives in Finance Minister Joe Oliver's riding, has been forced to rely on welfare and child benefits to survive.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Blue Jays have brought T.O.-haters into flock

JAYS 2015

Canada's MLB team unifies the nation as playoffs begin

Fernando Carneiro
Metro | Toronto

People all over Canada are saying nice things about Toronto and my brain is having a tough time taking it in.

Specifically, it's the Blue Jays they're excited about. It's almost like people have forgotten the Jays play in Toronto.

The hashtag used by the Blue Jays this season, #ComeTogether, couldn't be more appropriate.

A record number of people — about a million per game — watched the Jays on TV this season, according to Sportsnet. On average, 973,000 viewers tuned in to each game, a 68 per cent increase over 2014. The two most-watched games drew in more than two million people.

These Jays are winning over fans the way other Toronto teams can't.

Matt Cox, a die-hard Ottawa Senators fan and Leafs hater, takes the train to Toronto to watch the Jays play.

"The Leafs and Blue Jays are apples and oranges," Cox said. "It's hard to even imagine them being from the same city, let alone playing a block away from each other."

He's not the only one travelling here for the Jays. A Haligonian colleague vacationed in Toronto earlier this year with the intention of taking his son to a game at the Rogers Centre.

It's nice to see attitudes changing on the East Coast.

Back in 2000, I was in a Halifax bar with a buddy when we were invited to a house party. The woman who invited us eventually asked, "where are you from?"

We said "Toronto" and were promptly uninvited. We were told the "guys who live in the house" wouldn't want Torontonians crashing their party.

Fifteen years later, Blue Jays merchandise is selling out within 24 hours of landing on store shelves, according to Metro Halifax.

The same is true out West.

In Edmonton, self-described Blue Jays super fan Scott Carefoot takes a 60-inch screen to the local ball diamond so he and teammates can watch the Jays.

In Calgary, musicians Aaron Pollock and Swift Olliver released a tribute song to the Blue Jays on YouTube set to Taylor Swift's 22.

Even in Vancouver people can be spotted wearing Jays hats around Robson Street.

I lived there from 2006 to 2010. Vancouverites seemed to almost enjoy putting Toronto down. I would hear people describe our city as a "concrete jungle full of smog — I could never live there."

Interestingly, for the most part, the people who said that had never been to Toronto. And now they're sporting Blue Jays hats.

The World Series might be the ultimate prize, but these Jays have already won over Toronto's haters.

Good luck to you, Texas Rangers. You're up against our entire country today.

TICKETS

Tickets are still available for the Jays first playoff games in 22 years. They're available from all those popular ticket resellers, with cheap seats offered for between $100 to $200 (that's two to four times their original price, by the way).

BlueJays SUPERFANS

Dennis and Joan Ponce de Leon

FANS SINCE: 1988 (Dennis) and 1992 (Joan)
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Roy Halladay and Jose Bautista (Dennis); Russell Martin and Kevin Pillar (Joan)
MOST ENJOY: Heckling, being part of the crowd

Dennis' love for the Jays solidified during the 1992 division series when Roberto Alomar hit a game-tying home run off Dennis Eckersley in Game 4. He was 12. "I was watching it on TV with my family. It was a big party. That moment hit and it we went all crazy," he recalls. That same year, his wife, Joan, got to meet World Series MVP, catcher Pat Borders, and she'll never forget it.

SUPERSTITIONS

Some signs suggest our team won't win

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

For some fans, seeing six Jays' stars, smiling, and surrounding manager John Gibbons on the cover of this week's Sports Illustrated was a sign of impending doom.

But SI Jinx — the trend of teams and players tanking after making the magazine's cover — isn't the only superstition the Jays have found themselves on the wrong side of this year. Have you heard what happens when they wear their road greys?

Over at the Blue Jay Hunter blog, writer Ian Hunter has meticulously documented the Jays' long and strange streak of wearing their blue alternate uniform instead of their normal grey uniform when playing road games.

He guesses there is a superstitious motivation. The Jays posted a 22-12 record in their alternate jerseys versus a sad 10-22 record in their away greys this season.

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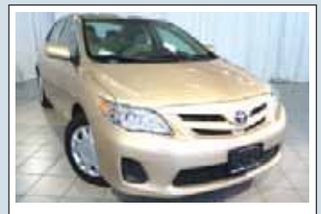

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TORONTO'S TIGHTEST RACES

This city is the battleground

With the Liberals and NDP vying to unseat Stephen Harper and form the next Canadian government, pollsters say the fate of the opposition parties depends on their success in the Greater Toronto Area. Metro has already spotlighted tight races underway in Spadina-Fort York, University-Rosedale and Eglinton-Lawrence, but these are five other ridings to watch as we enter the final stretch of Canada's 42nd general election.

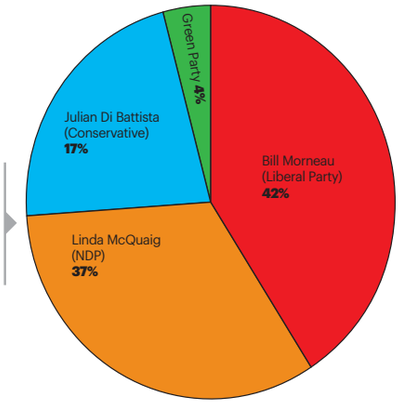
Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

TORONTO CENTRE

NDP support in Toronto is concentrated in the city's downtown core. The party is holding on to the lead in Spadina-Fort York and University-Rosedale, but they're losing ground to the Liberals in Toronto Centre.

If the Grits can take the riding, Mainstreet Research vice-president David Valentin says the party should see strong results citywide.

"If the Liberals win Toronto Centre on Oct. 19, they'll be in for a good night in Toronto," he said.



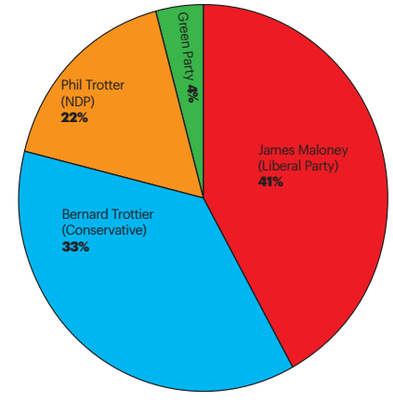
SOURCE: FORUM RESEARCH SEPT. 30, 2015

ETOBICOKE LAKESHORE

Forum's Lorne Bozinoff says Etobicoke-Lakeshore is the closest thing the GTA has to a bellwether riding.

Former Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff famously lost this seat in 2008, ushering in an era of Conservative rule.

However, the riding appears to be returning to the Liberal fold, with James Maloney ahead by as much as eight points.

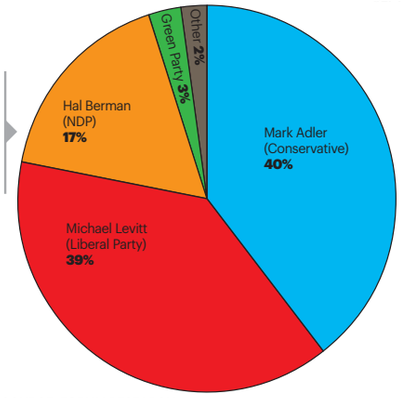


SOURCE: FORUM RESEARCH SEPT. 18, 2015

YORK CENTRE

Liberal challenger Michael Levitt's strong polling against Conservative incumbent Mark Adler is evidence of the Grits' mounting support in Toronto, said Forum Research founder Lorne Bozinoff.

If Levitt can pull off the upset, York Centre will be another riding the Liberals will have snatched back from the Conservatives.



SOURCE: FORUM RESEARCH OCT. 5, 2015

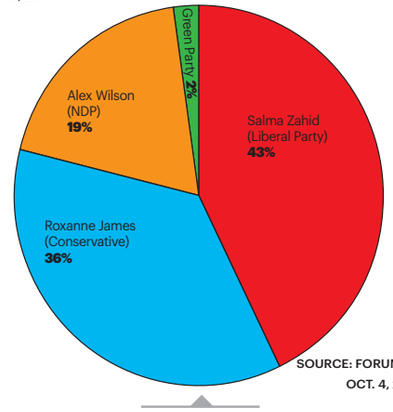
SCARBOROUGH CENTRE

Having seized the neighbouring riding of Scarborough Southwest from the Liberals in 2011, the NDP were eyeing Scarborough Centre as a potential pick-up. However, the party has never polled above third place.

"Scarborough Centre is an example of a riding that should have been a competitive, three-way race, but it just isn't," said Mainstreet Research's David Valentin.

Valentin believes the riding is a mini bellwether, where the results may signal how the rest of Scarborough will vote.

"The margin of victory for the Liberal candidate there will dictate what happens elsewhere," he said.

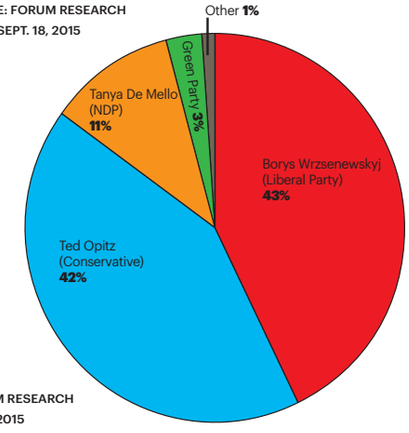


SOURCE: FORUM RESEARCH OCT. 4, 2015

ETOBICOKE CENTRE

Last election, Etobicoke Centre was one of the tightest races in the country.

After the ballots were counted – and an appeal was filed to the Supreme Court – Conservative Ted Opitz won the riding by six votes. It's a rematch for 2015, and once again the Liberals and Conservatives are neck and neck. The Liberals are looking to grow their support in the outer 416 and the Conservatives desperately need to hang on to their seats there, so expect both parties to be campaigning hard in the riding.



SOURCE: FORUM RESEARCH SEPT. 18, 2015

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14 Extended Projects
Revisit the following projects between **October 4 – 12**

1

8

2

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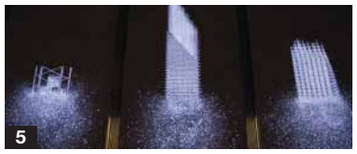
4

11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12

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14

1. ***Campbell's House: Your Eye Inside Out***, JR
2. ***Inside Out***, JR
3. ***Nuit Talks: Putting the extra-in-ordinary***, JR
4. ***There Is No Away***, Sean Martindale with JP King
5. ***Time of the Empress***, Aziz + Cucher
6. ***'refugees run the seas…'***, Francisco Fernandos Granados
7. ***Sphinx***, Luis Jacob
8. ***Beaufort 10: Frio Estudio del Desastre***, Los Carpinteros
9. ***Beaufort 12: Black Cloud***, Carlos Amorales
10. ***Silent Knight***, Ekow Nimako
11. ***Pattern Study***, Amanda McCavour
12. ***Mímir's Well***, Michael "Howie" Howatson
13. ***EMPREINTES***, Pascale Peyret
14. ***Solid States***, An Te Liu

Locations & times: snbto.ca/extended

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Celebration will focus on refugees

THANKSGIVING

Situation is 'overwhelming', says local physician

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

As refugees continue to flood out of Syria and other countries, a Toronto group is calling for people to remember those who are already living in Canada. GETTY IMAGES

A group of Torontonians will celebrate this year's Thanksgiving in a special way: Walking with refugees.

Volunteers at the Canadian Centre for Refugees and Immigration Healthcare will gather Saturday for a walk meant to focus on the plight of millions of refugees around the globe.

"We've been blessed with an abundance of things in this country," said Dr. Paul Caulford, a local physician coordinating the centre's activities. "And that's in painful contrast to the misery and abuse suffered by millions of refugees."

Caulford is one of dozens of volunteer nurses, physicians and other community members working at the centre, which provides medical assistance to local refugees not covered by OHIP.

The centre operates a weekly volunteer drop-in clinic, assisting about 30 patients at any given time. About 50 per cent of the patients are pregnant women and youths, he said.

Thanksgiving for Refugees also aims to remind people that there's never been a better time to share what they have with the less fortunate.

"The situation is overwhelming," Caulford said about what many refugees are facing.

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Traffic decoded

TECHNOLOGY

Hackathon sees 22 teams try to improve city commute

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Traffic Jam T.O. participants hack away on their projects during the 48-hour event. CONTRIBUTED

Can Toronto's traffic problems be solved by a few lines of code?

That was the question being asked by the 150 developers, designers and data enthusiasts who took part in Traffic Jam T.O. over the weekend.

Hosted at the Evergreen Brick Works, the hackathon challenged 22 teams to improve the city's commute using their technical skills and information culled from Toronto's open data portal.

"It went really well. The enthusiasm and passion in the room meant it was bound for success," said Jesse Darling, a project designer at the Brick Works.

Projects ranged from fun mobile apps to predictive traffic modelling. The winning team used municipal data to discover Toronto's most unreliable intersections. Another winning entry was Walkr, an app that combines information about pedestrian volumes and infrastructure with social media data showing where people are having fun in Toronto.

"We already have a lot of apps to tell us how to get from one point in the city to another, but by focusing on pedestrian traffic, we can help incentivize a mode of transportation that's underutilized," said Andréa Crofts, a user-experience designer and member of the Walkr team. Crofts said the goal of Walkr was two-fold: build an app that pedestrians and tourists might use to navigate the city, while also showing the areas of Toronto where pedestrian appeal is lacking.

Overall, Crofts was impressed by the energy at the hackathon and said the city should run more of them.

"It's a great way to get the younger demographic engaged," she said. "You get different perspectives from people who use technology as an integral part of their lives as opposed to only when they need to do something."

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Sears

Families call for end to police shootings

DEMONSTRATION

Protest draws attention to pain of loved ones lost

Some cried. Some shouted. Some couldn't talk.

But all the people who spoke at a demonstration Wednesday in front of Queen's Park had one thing in common: they want to see an end to people being killed by police officers.

The demonstration coincides with a recent push for a conversation on police-related deaths. Last week, Toronto Const. James Forcillo pleaded not guilty to all charges in relation to the shooting death of Sammy Yatim two years ago.

The speakers at Wednesday's demonstration — among them lawyers, Black Lives Matter activists and provincial NDP deputy leader Jagmeet Singh — criticized what they called a "systemic" problem among Toronto's and Canada's police forces.

Singh called out the issue of police carding as one of the factors that leads to heightened tension between police and the public and leads to confrontations that end in death.

Many of those in the crowd had family members killed by police. Some of them spoke to the gathering. La Tanya Grant wasn't sad or crying when she took to the podium at the demonstration. She was furious. Grant's cousin, Jermaine Carby, was shot and killed by Peel Regional Police at a traffic stop in Brampton in September 2014. The unnamed officer who shot him was cleared.

Grant said she is frustrated the officer has remained anonymous. "Anybody that kills our family members should be able to give a statement," she said. "There's so (many) unanswered questions … it makes me sick." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

La Tanya Grant holds a flyer of her cousin Jermaine Carby, who was shot and killed by police. Grant spoke at a demonstration on Wednesday at Queen's Park for people affected by fatal police shootings. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NUIT BLANCHE RIOT

Police chief blasts 'reckless' behaviour

Steven Goetz
For Metro | Toronto

Toronto police Chief Mark Saunders wants the public's help identifying individuals who threw bottles at police during a riot at Yonge-Dundas Square during Nuit Blanche.

"We saw behaviour that was reckless," Saunders said Wednesday. "Behaviour that could have caused extremely serious injuries."

Police arrived at the square early Sunday on reports someone had a gun, Saunders said. A fight broke out and a young woman was trampled before police were able to confiscate what turned out to be an imitation handgun, he said.

The large crowd hurled debris and insults at the outnumbered officers, who were forced to retreat. The incident has been widely circulated after videos were posted to social media.

"It seems clear that for many there, it was a party atmosphere," Saunders said. "There were smiles, laughter, encouragement, booing and cheering — attitudes completely at odds with the threat in the square."

A police officer's hand was broken and two police helmets were cracked during the confrontation, the chief said.

Meanwhile, Saunders said police will be ready for crowds and gatherings related to the Blue Jays' playoff run. But, he insisted, there's no reason to expect trouble.

"It's a sporting event. It's not a security event," Saunders said.

> **"For many there, it was a party atmosphere … There were smiles, laughter, encouragement, booing and cheering — attitudes completely at odds with the threat in the square.**
> Mark Saunders

Talks on closing wage gap to start

LABOUR

Committee is way behind on its mandate, advocates say

The Ontario government says it is determined to close the wage gap between men and women.

Labour Minister Kevin Flynn is to announce Thursday that the Gender Wage Gap Steering Committee will begin public consultation sessions this fall with groups across the province.

"We need to close the gender wage gap and eliminate inequity for women in the workforce. It is the right thing to do," Flynn says in a release obtained by Torstar News Service.

And it is about time, say advocates who have been following the issue for years.

"The committee was appointed in April and was supposed to have its report on consultations filed within seven months," said lawyer Mary Cornish of the Equal Pay Coalition. "So they are way behind. At least they are getting started now."

The coalition, which promotes the annual in Ontario, hopes Thursday's announcement also includes a robust public-engagement campaign.

"The public needs to see that the government sees this as an important issue," Cornish said.

According to the government release, Statistics Canada states that Ontario's wage gap ranges from 12 per cent to 31.5 per cent and is most pronounced for aboriginal and women in minority groups. The Royal Bank of Canada says the government, estimates personal incomes would be $168 billion higher each year if women in Canada had the same labour-market opportunities as men. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

HOCKEY SEASON

A SEA OF BLUE AND WHITE Blue Jays fans aren't the only Toronto sports lovers making waves. The Maple Leafs opened their season Wednesday with a festive lineup outside the Air Canada Centre starting mid-afternoon.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

SAFETY

Police HQ closed after pipe bomb concerns

Toronto police barricaded the usually busy College St. between Yonge and Bay streets for about three hours Wednesday evening after a citizen reportedly brought a pipe bomb to police headquarters and asked police to dispose of it.

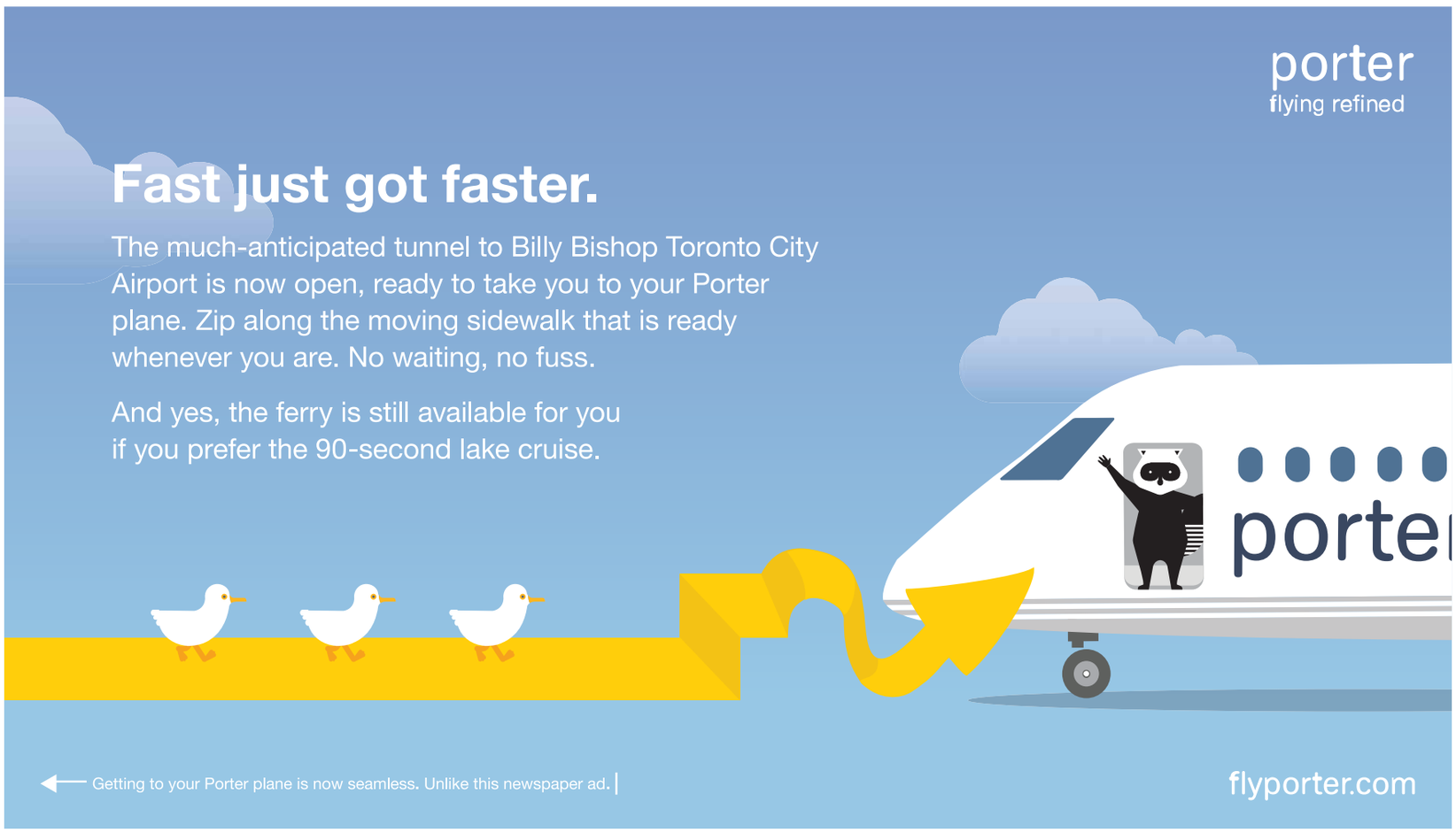
The Toronto Police Operations Twitter account tweeted at 6:16 p.m. that police headquarters, at 40 College St., would be closed along with the surrounding area until the situation is safe.

The bomb wasn't brought into the building, police said, and the bomb squad came to the scene, along with two fire trucks and a dozen firefighters, plus an ambulance.

Police could not confirm whether other buildings on the block had been evacuated, but the College subway station was open and a security guard led people through the entrance at Yonge and College streets.

A restaurant across the street, W Burger Bar, remained open behind the barricades, though its clientele was reduced to four tables, according to manager Alexandra Schindel.

"Our regulars are coming and they're turning them away," she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE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READY TO ENGAGE

Metro's coast-to-coast daily election series connects young, urban Canadians to the issues they care about

VOTER PROFILE

Name: Kevin Settee **Age:** 25 **Riding:** Winnipeg Centre
His issues: Tuition reform, climate change, child care, oilsands expansion and indigenous rights

Petty politics won't resolve problems

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Winnipeg

There are fewer than two weeks left in this election, and Kevin Settee is feeling overloaded.

He also sounds disgusted.

In the 25-year-old's riding, Winnipeg Centre, candidates have been battering each other over who has real street cred — i.e. condemning each other for not living in the riding. NDP incumbent Pat Martin has had to apologize for profane outbursts aimed at competitors (e.g., "political slut" and "son of a bitch").

"It's disrespectful to the constituents," Settee says of the petty politics. Born and raised in the city's west end and a new father to a nine-month-old boy, Settee calls the race "the laughing stock of Canada."

"That's overshadowed a lot of the issues that we experience here in Winnipeg Centre. Real issues aren't being talked about or addressed."

As an urban geography student at the University of Winnipeg, top of mind for Settee is student tuition, debt and job prospects. He speaks of employment as a matter of dignity.

"In Canada, our students have a combined $16-billion debt for student loans. That's not even including student lines of credit and credit cards. When students graduate they're going into a precarious job market that doesn't pay good, and it's very difficult for them to start a family or buy a home and start to contribute to the economy."

As a new father, he's also concerned about access to quality child care.

"In the inner city of Winnipeg, there's high rates of poverty and families living in poverty. One of the ways to address that is child care." Single parents or those struggling can go back to school or get training to find jobs if they have child care, he says.

Settee is also concerned about pipeline development, the expansion of the oilsands and the impact of both on climate change.

"I'd like to hear Canada talk about a transition plan. What's the transition going to look like from an economy dependent on fossil fuels and the development of tar sands and moving into more renewable, clean energy sources, such as geothermal, hydro, wind, solar," he says. "In terms of me and my son and my grandchildren, I think we need to start looking at ways to address climate change and protecting water for the next seven generations."

He's got more research to do before deciding how to vote but he says he's skeptical of the NDP's plan to build refineries on Canada's coasts and also criticized the Liberals for supporting Bill C-51.

He'd like to see an MP with a strategy to help increase jobs and economic prospects on First Nation reserves and a strategy to unify support for indigenous Canadians moving to bigger cities. An MP that will improve the integration of immigrants into Winnipeg, too.

"I want to vote for somebody who understands the community, is going to best represent Winnipeg Centre in Parliament, who's going to stand up for services and advocacy that Winnipeg Centre residents need," he says, adding that he'd also like "a government that respects indigenous pluralism and self-determination, on and off reserves."

Settee's not sure if any party can or will change the way indigenous Canadians are treated. "I don't think it's given. I think you need to advocate for yourself and your community. We have to work hard for our rights."

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. She'll be in Toronto tomorrow.

Environmental issues 'derailed'

As campaign riles up, leaders shift focus from climate change

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

As the federal leaders have squared off, the David Suzuki Foundation has praised the NDP's plan for a cap-and-trade system as "one of the most powerful government incentives" available to address climate change. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Recent political bickering has sidelined an otherwise strong showing for environmental issues in this federal election, according to the David Suzuki Foundation.

With huge commitments for transit infrastructure spending by all parties, the NDP's proposed cap-and-trade system, the Liberals' plan to phase out fossil-fuel subsidies and the Greens calling out the other parties for their continuing support — explicit or otherwise — for various pipeline projects, foundation spokesman Alvin Singh is satisfied the environment has worked its way into the public's mind.

"(The leaders) have been talking about how the environment isn't a distinct issue," said Singh, who sees environment, health care and the economy as entwined issues that can't be treated separately. "Across the board, parties are starting to invest in transit infrastructure, and a number of parties are talking about transitioning to a fossil-free future."

The focus on the big picture issues, and the recognition that the environment plays a crucial role in all of them, is progress in itself, according to Singh.

However, talk of the economy, health care and the environment — while featured prominently in the early debates — seems to have been pushed aside in favour of the furor over niqabs, national security and human rights of late.

As leaders have gotten riled up and the intensity of the campaign has ratcheted up, Singh admits talk of the environment has been "derailed" to some degree, at the expense of what matters most to voters.

According to a recent poll conducted by the Environics Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation, 61 per cent of Canadians believe government should co-operate with other nations to reduce carbon emissions, even if it results in some job losses and higher prices for some goods, and the majority (58 per cent) are in favour of a carbon tax similar to British Columbia's.

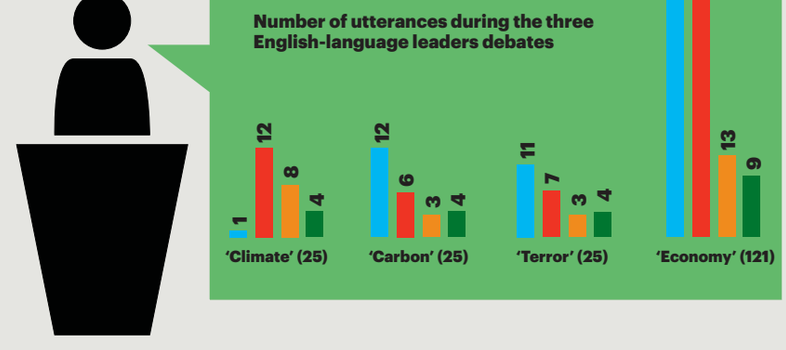
When it comes to each party's platform, the David Suzuki Foundation is still crunching the data and preparing their environment report card for after the Oct. 19 election.

> **(The leaders) have been talking about how the environment isn't a distinct issue.**
> Alvin Singh

BY THE NUMBERS

A matter of some debate

Are environmental issues getting short shrift in this campaign? The answer, it would seem, depends on your point of reference.



PM vows wider niqab ban

ELECTION 2015

NDP, Liberals condemn the plan as bid to distract voters

Stephen Harper took the politics of niqabs to a higher level Wednesday, suggesting a re-elected Conservative government would consider legislation banning the Muslim face covering for anyone dealing with — or working for — the federal government.

He opened the door earlier in the week with a CBC television interview, saying niqabs could be nixed in the public service — echoing similar comments last week in the French-language leaders' debate.

But on Wednesday, the Conservative leader went further, lauding Quebec's Bill 64, which requires those who wear face coverings to remove them if they want to work in the public sector — or do business with government officials. Although tabled in the National Assembly, the bill has yet to be debated.

Conservative Leader Stephen Harper talks with Rebecka Byok during a campaign stop in Saskatoon, Sask, on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

He called the Quebec Liberal government's approach measured and pledged that when it came time for federal legislation, he would follow their lead.

As if to hammer home the point, the Conservatives released online attack ads in French, going after Justin Trudeau's position on the niqab.

A proposed ban on niqabs in the federal civil service would affect an infinitesimally small number of bureaucrats — if any at all. Statistics from 2011 show only 1.8 per cent of 257,000 federal employees are Muslim women and only a small subset of them is likely to wear face coverings.

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY

- **Stephen Harper's** itinerary was not available.
- **Justin Trudeau's** itinerary was not available.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Toronto.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Guelph, Ont., and Toronto.

The Conservatives have already tried to require Muslim women to show their faces at citizenship ceremonies, but those rules are being challenged in the courts. Harper's comments on Wednesday make clear he is eyeing additional legislation to require women to unveil every time they want services from the federal government.

Harper insisted his government has been "saying the same thing for several months" on the issue.

Both Trudeau and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair condemned the latest proposal as an attempt to distract voters from serious questions about Conservative management of the economy.

Mulcair said, in Enoch, Alta., that what Harper was doing was "bizarre" and "dangerous" and part of a broader political strategy aimed at getting the Conservatives re-elected by accentuating differences rather than bringing people together.

Trudeau, in London, Ont., said Harper's divide-and-conquer approach "is unworthy of the office he holds, and he needs to stop."

"No election win is worth pitting Canadians against Canadians." THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRAILER PARK BOYS

Video tells students to go vote

Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

If you don't vote, you're a s--- weasel. That's the message from drunk trailer-park supervisor Jim Lahey and his cheeseburger-loving partner in crime Randy in a new video from the Dalhousie Student Union in Halifax.

"My job today is to encourage all you little s--- apples to get out and vote," says Lahey, played by actor John Dunsworth, in the video.

Lahey tells Randy that students can have an effect on the outcome of the upcoming election if they vote. Randy, played by actor Pat Roach, asks if Lahey will be running for prime minister and says he'll be voting for the Cheeseburger Party.

The video is part of the student union's #itsnosecret campaign, urging students to get to the polls.

The Cheeseburger Party, unfortunately for Randy, won't be on any of the ballots.

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MONTREAL

Randy Quaid detained

American actor Randy Quaid has been arrested again and is scheduled to appear before the Immigration and Refugee Board in Montreal on Thursday.

The circumstances behind the arrest — his second in Montreal this year — are unclear, but his Canadian wife, Evi, tweeted late Tuesday that her husband had been detained.

Immigration and Refugee Board spokesman Robert Gervais said Quaid will have a detention review hearing before a board member Thursday afternoon, a routine procedure that occurs typically within 48 hours of someone being detained.

The couple have sought to stay in Canada and have said they were being hunted by "Hollywood star-whackers," but their arrival in this country came as they faced a number of legal problems in the United States.

Quaid is the older brother of actor Dennis Quaid and is best-known for his roles in films such as National Lampoon's Vacation and Independence Day.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Harperman' gets groove back

ELECTION 2015

Songwriter, scientist turns accidental activist

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

It has been a whirlwind few weeks for Tony Turner. The federal scientist was suspended from his Environment Canada job eight weeks ago and investigated for writing the Harperman protest song. The song took off, garnering more than 680,000 YouTube views and sparking nationwide sing-alongs last month. Last week, Turner retired, making him free to speak publicly. This interview has been edited and condensed for length and clarity.

Did you expect the song to become as big as it was?

I didn't expect the song to go viral the way it had. I wrote that song way back in March, I played it for the first time at a May Day rally and I thought that was going to be the end of it. I think there were other people who saw a political usefulness that could be made of the song, so we did the video and then we put it on YouTube.

I guess my suspension created the big news story that made it go viral.

Why did you decide to write it?

Tony Turner, former Environment Canada scientist, got suspended for his anti-Stephen Harper folk song. THE CANADIAN PRESS

I was just unhappy with the prime minister and our leadership in this country. The songwriting contest was to write either a protest song or a song of hope, and I thought, well, this is an election year so I'm going to write a protest song.

I found the inspiration for it from a social justice newsletter with a dozen things the Harper government has done to undermine democracy, and I added to it.

Did you think you would face professional consequences for writing it?

I wrote it and I performed it, but other people promoted it, created the website and organized events like the national sing-along day on Sept. 17. The allegations of the government suggested that I kind of masterminded the whole thing, and that's just totally inaccurate. Anything I wrote or said has nothing to do with the nature of my job. Environment Canada's values and ethics code says that you have to maintain your impartiality and your objectivity in your duties. I've done that. Has my ability to do my job in an impartial and objective manner been compromised? I would say no, and my union agrees with me.

HEALTH

New ovarian cancer drug a 'great advancement'

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Canadian women battling recurring ovarian cancer diagnosis now have another treatment option.

Health Canada approved Avastin, a targeted therapy that blocks the blood vessels cancer cells need to grow and metastasize. In Canada, it's the first new drug for ovarian cancer in 15 years.

Dr. Michael Fung-Kee-Fung, division head of surgical oncology at the Ottawa Hospital, calls it a "great advancement."

"Avastin is an example of a drug which has actually made its way through the investigation phases to actually come to clinical practice."

The drug is taken intravenously and in parallel with chemo treatments. It's "extremely well tolerated," said Dr. Fung-Kee-Fung, with side effects like high blood pressure.

Up until this point, only chemotherapy and surgery were available for women diagnosed with the disease that bears symptoms as subtle as bloating and gastric upset.

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NOBEL PRIZE

DNA research honoured

Three scientists from Sweden, the U.S. and Turkey won the Nobel Prize in chemistry on Wednesday for showing how cells repair damaged DNA, work that's inspired the development of new cancer treatments.

Swedish scientist Tomas Lindahl, American Paul Modrich and U.S.-Turkish national Aziz Sancar shared the 8 million Swedish kronor (about $960,000) award for research done in the 1970s and '80s.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said their work on DNA repair had provided "fundamental knowledge" about how cells function and shed light on the mechanisms behind both cancer and aging.

The findings are significant for cancer research, because cancer cells are kept alive by DNA repair mechanisms. Researchers are now looking at ways to destroy the repair mechanisms within the cancer cells to kill them, academy member Peter Brzezinski said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama apologizes

AFGHANISTAN

U.S. airstrike hits hospital, killing staff and patients

U.S. President Barack Obama apologized to Doctors Without Borders on Wednesday for the American air attack that killed at least 22 people at its hospital in Afghanistan and said the U.S. would examine military procedures to look for better ways to prevent such incidents.

Obama's telephone call to the group's international president, Joanne Liu, came a day after the White House had stopped short of an apology, waiting to learn more while acknowledging that the attack was a U.S. mistake. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama offered condolences to the staff and pledged a "transparent, thorough and objective accounting of the facts."

"When the United States makes a mistake, we own up to it, we apologize where appropriate and we are honest about what transpired," Earnest said. He described Obama's apology as "heartfelt."

Liu confirmed the apology and, in a written statement, reiterated her organization's call for the U.S. government to consent to an independent investigation "to establish what happened in Kunduz, how it happened and why it happened."

Emerging details about the erroneous strike have only fuelled growing condemnation by Doctors Without Borders and other aid groups in the four days since the clinic in the northern city of Kunduz came under heavy fire that killed a dozen staffers and 10 patients. After initial confusion, officials determined the U.S. had carried out the strike, an admission that complicates delicate U.S. efforts in Afghanistan as Obama weighs how many troops to leave there.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington on Wednesday. PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALLIATIVE CARE

Britain tops in 'quality of death'

Britain topped an 80-country "quality of death" study released Tuesday, which warned that aging and booming populations would make palliative care a growing worldwide issue.

The 2015 Quality of Death Index, compiled by the London-based Economist Intelligence Unit, found Britain to be the best at palliative care.

"Its ranking is due to comprehensive national policies, the extensive integration of palliative care into the National Health Service, a strong hospice movement and deep community engagement on the issue," the EIU said.

Britain was followed by Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Belgium and Taiwan. Canada came in at 11th place.

Palliative care provision was found to be worst in Iraq among the 80 countries studied, with Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nigeria and Myanmar rounding out the bottom five.

AFP

SYRIA

Russians cruise missiles fly

Russian warships in the Caspian Sea fired cruise missiles Wednesday as Syrian government troops launched a ground offensive in central Syria in the first major combined air-and-ground assault since Moscow began its military campaign in the country last week.

The missiles flew nearly 1,500 kilometres over Iran and Iraq and struck Raqqa and Aleppo provinces in the north and Idlib province in the northwest. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant group has strongholds in Raqqa and Aleppo, while the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front has a strong presence in Idlib.

Activists and rebels say the targets have included Western-backed fighters and other groups opposed to President Bashar Assad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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NEW BRUNSWICK

Analyst tracking hackers

As use of the Internet has exploded, so has the number of malware attacks around the world — and now a researcher at the University of New Brunswick is trying to unlock the digital fingerprints of hackers who are after your money and personal information.

Natalia Stakhanova has begun a five-year research project aimed at trying to determine the digital profile of people developing certain types of malicious software, or malware.

She is focusing on the binary side of existing malware to look for clues about the source of an infection and the kinds of tools used to develop it. Her team will also try to determine whether the malware was targeting a specific person or if it is more random.

"We hope to at some time be able to identify where it comes from. So we'll know who wrote it, why he wrote it, how it was written and where that person lives," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Blue Jay flu' won't fly

EMPLOYMENT

Bosses also likely won't accept baseball as a religion

Though you may be tempted to book off work Thursday or Friday with "Blue Jay flu," you're better off just catching updates at your desk, advises David Doorey, professor of labour and employment law at York University. Torstar News Service asked him what bosses will think of this sudden illness.

Fans are hyped up to watch the Blue Jays take on the Texas Rangers on Thursday and Friday in the Toronto team's first playoff games in 22 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Can employees get away with calling in sick?

A different sort of bird flu is going around, but don't expect bosses to be sympathetic. Any employee who lies about being sick to sneak off to the sports bar is putting their job at risk.

What are the repercussions if you're caught?

Dishonesty and unauthorized absenteeism are both violations of an employment contract that an employer could respond to by discipline or even termination. Non-union employees have less protection because their employers can always fire them for absenteeism, unless the absence is due to a disability or religion. Baseball may be a religion to some, but the law doesn't see it that way. If a group of unionized employees scheme to all call in sick and watch the game together, that would be an illegal strike that could result in discipline, termination and even an order to pay the employer damages for lost productivity.

From the boss' perspective, is this heavily frowned upon?

Taking the odd day off is one thing. Lying to the employer about the reason for the absence is quite another. Dishonesty is treated as a serious breach of the employment contract, and most employers have little tolerance for it.

What about just watching the game at work: Is this acceptable in the workplace?

Depending on the work environment, allowing your employees to watch the game at work could be a great morale-building human-resources strategy.

This obviously wouldn't work for all workplaces, since it will mean a very unproductive four hours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Half of microbusinesses needed $100K or less: Poll

Half of businesses with fewer than 10 employees were able to launch with $100,000 or less, and one in 10 needed only $2,500 or less, a Bank of Montreal poll says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Real-estate investors shifting focus: Report

A PwC Canada and Urban Land Institute report on real-estate trends says foreign investors may start looking beyond Toronto and Vancouver and begin targeting markets in Montreal and Saskatoon.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MEDIA

Tech firms seek to deliver, speed up news on phones

Technology giants including Apple, Facebook, Snapchat and now Google want to take charge of how we get and see news on our phones.

Google on Wednesday was the latest company to announce a news-focused tool. It is designed to speed up how fast stories appear on a phone's screen after a Google search. It's not widely available yet, but could emerge as a key source of traffic and ad revenue for publishers, and not just news providers, as people increasingly rely on their handheld gadgets.

Google is following other trendsetters that already have put their own twists on how news flows through phones. Facebook in May started testing "Instant Articles," which load news stories faster from a handful of publishers, like the New York Times, BuzzFeed and the Washington Post, inside the social network's mobile app.

Apple's News app, which came automatically built-in to the latest version of its mobile operating system (released last month), has stories from dozens of media brands.

The Discover feature of disappearing-messages app Snapchat, launched in January, currently has stories and video from 14 media brands, including CNN, Mashable, BuzzFeed, People and Vice.

Phones and tablets are becoming more important to publishers, but stories and video can take several seconds to load on the mobile web, to the exasperation of impatient readers and revenue-starved publishers that may lose an opportunity to sell ads.

Facebook is speeding up how fast articles from participating publishers load. The feature is supposed to save at least several seconds because the news articles appear immediately.

Google's version speeds up stories clicked on after a Google search or in a Twitter feed, for example.

Snapchat's popularity with young people came from its disappearing-messages function before it started Discover, which you swipe over to when you're already inside Snapchat.

Apple did build a news app that you can tailor to your interests. There are similar services that already exist, like Flipboard. But Apple made it easier on iPhone users by including its app in the latest mobile operating system.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIGITAL TREND

Phones, tablets draw more readers than computers

Out of 51 top digital news outlets — which included video-heavy sites, online arms of traditional newspapers and digital-only brands — only nine had a bigger audience on personal computers than on phones or tablets, says the Pew Research Center.

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metro VIEWS

Researchers find missing lines of the 3,000-year-old Epic of Gilgamesh on a tablet bought from a smuggler — under a 'no questions asked' rule some archeologists worry encourages black-market trade.

CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NIQAB DEBATE

With a deal to create a free-trade zone across the Pacific Rim, the assumption was that the Conservatives would want to shift the conversation away from identity politics.

Against the expectations of many — including some of his own strategists — Stephen Harper has thrown the niqab issue back into the mix of the last stretch of the federal campaign.

With a deal to create a free trade zone across the Pacific Rim in hand the assumption was that the Conservatives would want to shift the conversation away from identity politics and back to the more central theme of the economy.

Instead, in a CBC interview on Tuesday, Harper breathed new life into the niqab discussion, suggesting a re-elected Conservative government might follow Quebec's example and ban the face-covering veil across the federal workplace.

That comment predictably stole the show from the just-negotiated Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Harper had raised the possibility of imposing a niqab ban on federal civil servants and those that they provide services to on a stop in Quebec last week and — in passing — on the set of the last French-language leaders debate on Friday.

But Tuesday's CBC interview marked the first time he was as explicit on English-language national television on both the pursuit by the Conservatives of a niqab ban for the purpose of taking the oath of citizenship and the notion that the prohibition might be expanded.

It could be argued that Harper was just answering questions. But he is a seasoned politician.

He could have limited his remarks to the ongoing government efforts to have Muslim women unveil their faces to take the oath, the better to focus on his trade deal.

He had to have known that his niqab answer would stir the pot.

On Wednesday in Saskatoon, Harper pushed the envelope a bit further, calling the Quebec plan for a comprehensive niqab ban a "responsible" one.

By all indications, the Conservatives believe there is still political capital to be gained from a culture war over the niqab.

But as they expand the front of that war from Quebec to the rest of Canada, they are also shifting targets.

Their latest French-language ads take Justin Trudeau to task for opposing a niqab ban.

In contrast with NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, who has taken a hit over his opposition to a veil ban in Quebec, Trudeau, who shares the same position, has so far emerged unscathed.

He picked up a major editorial endorsement from La Presse this week. It is the first time since 2000 that the Montreal daily explicitly endorsed the Liberals in a federal election.

Some polls have Trudeau in the lead in Ontario. Most have the Conservatives and the Liberals neck-and-neck nationally.

Going in the last two weeks of the campaign, Harper strategists may have hoped that the Liberal leader would join Mulcair on the TPP barricades.

Harper could then have spent the last stretch defending the projected benefits of his trade agreement against all comers. He could have counted on a chorus of pro-TPP constituencies to echo his message. Except that the Liberal leader has declined to come out against the trade deal.

Raising the niqab stakes in an effort to drag Trudeau down is not a risk-free strategy. The widespread support for the removal of face-covering veils for the taking of the citizenship oath is steeped in symbolism. Banning women who wear the niqab from working in the federal civil service and from receiving government services unless they unveil could be widely seen as a different proposition.

In the immediate aftermath of Harper's CBC interview, some observers mistakenly suggested the Conservative leader was stealing a page from the Parti Québécois' secularism charter. In fact, it is Liberal Premier Philippe Couillard's example that Harper might follow.

The Parti Québécois would have imposed a secular dress code on anyone working in Quebec's public sector. Its proposed ban would have applied — among other religious garments — to the Jewish kippa, the Muslim hijab, and the Sikh turban. Like Harper, the Quebec Liberals are focusing on face-covering veils in their bill.

But if the Conservative leader's statements had some otherwise well-informed pundits initially confused, more than a few voters — particularly in the cultural communities that will determine the outcome of the crucial suburban vote later on Oct. 19 — could understandably feel less than clear about the extent of Harper's actual intentions.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Hallomeme costumes

Everyone has at least one Newsfeed Nancy in their life — a friend who is instantly on top of every viral sensation, whether it be a New York City rat toting a piece of pizza home on the subway, the dear departed Cecil the Lion, or The Dress of indeterminate colour. Now all those phenomena and more are available for the perpetually on-trend as commercially made Halloween costumes. If you're a bit more ambitious and willing to go homemade, the possibilities are endless — there's still plenty of time to pull together a disguise as a Labrador riding a bus, an excited weatherman or a pumpkin-spice latte before Oct. 31.

SOURCE: HOUSTON CHRONICLE

metroview

Old age: It's going to happen to you. And most of us aren't ready

Diane Baker Mason
For Metro

You think it won't happen to you. You won't end up warehoused in some underfunded institution. You'll live at home, maybe hire a helper. If you must, you'll move to a nice facility with superlative care. As for the cost, the government covers that, right?

Wrong. Most Canadians are under the illusion their long-term care is covered by government plans. But anyone who needs long-term care soon finds themselves in a financial and bureaucratic quagmire — a patchwork of services and facilities, with limited (if any) government support. There are waiting lists, inconsistent qualification procedures and significant expense for both institutional and in-home care. It is easy to fall through the gaps.

Rarely are private savings and insurance adequate to pay for our care. Usually the cost far exceeds the average person's savings. As for insurance, fewer than one per cent of Canadians purchase coverage for long-term care, possibly thinking it's not something they have to pay for.

Anyone who needs long-term care soon finds themselves in a financial and bureaucratic quagmire.

But we do pay, mostly from our own private funds. If that's inadequate, we are often thrown into a semi-subsidized system with many gaps in it.

While it should be a national priority that quality long-term care be available to every Canadian, Canada's plans for establishing and funding universal long-term care are virtually nonexistent. The federal parties speak mostly about the Canada Pension Plan and Old Age Security. Only the NDP promises a revised health accord that might address some long-term care issues.

But even a revised accord would not solve the funding problem. The answer lies in a public insurance plan. Such a plan would cover assistance with daily living as well as out-of-hospital professional services beyond those covered by the Canada Health Act. Studies by public-policy groups have explored options for such plans. But we continue to turn a blind eye to the problem of funding our increasing need for long-term care.

This isn't something remote from us — something that a separate group of "old people" are facing. We are the "old people." If it's not our personal problem right now, it will be soon enough. So let's all start looking at this now. To paraphrase that wise old man, Mick Jagger, time is not on our side.

Diane Baker Mason is a Toronto-based novelist, writer and retired lawyer.

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Your essential daily news

Pharrell Williams to perform at MTV European Music Awards later this month

Meyer wouldn't change a thing

BOOKS

Characters switch roles in new Twilight novel

Call them Edythe and Beau.

For the 10th anniversary of her Twilight series, Stephenie Meyer is offering a gender swap for those millions caught up in the saga of Bella and Edward.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers on Tuesday released a Twilight/Life and Death dual edition of Meyer's first of four main novels in the bestselling vampire series. The original book has been paired with Life and Death, a narrative that reverses the author's famed romance between a teen girl and male vampire, instead having a human boy (Beau) fall for a female vampire (Edythe).

According to Little, Brown, the alternate version contains nearly 400 pages of new material. As of late Tuesday morning, the book was in the top 500 on Amazon.com's bestseller list.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephenie Meyer.
GETTY IMAGES

TWILIGHT

... Except for one significant detail about the popular vampire series

It's been a decade since Stephanie Meyer — a then unknown author — introduced her death-crossed lovers Bella and Edward to readers in the first book of the Twilight series.

But, four books, five movies and 10 years later, has the romantic story of a young woman falling in love with a vampire lost it's sparkle in a world where Miley Cyrus twerks on MTV and feminist young women want to be the heroes of their own stories?

This old-fashioned girl-meets-boy story has spawned fan fiction, including E.L. James' Fifty Shades of Grey (just don't ask Meyer to comment on it — she wouldn't address it with us), and criticism about Bella's passive personality in the series.

Metro recently had an exclusive opportunity to email Meyer a few questions about how this series has held up in a changing world, and how readers were affected by her works.

Fans of the series will be very interested in the bonus content included in the 10th anniversary edition. What can you tell us about it? Is there anything you think will come as a revelation to readers?

The bonus content is Twilight rewritten with all but a few of the characters' genders switched. It is very close to the original version, because not much changes when the human is a boy and the vampire is a girl (which was kind of my point in doing this exercise). If readers have the same response that I did, they might be surprised at how cool Edward is as Edythe.

It was a decade ago that the series started, and a large number of women grew up reading the books and watching the movies. This was a love story, but it wasn't explicit or smutty. It was romantic more than anything. Have readers have told you how it affected them and their ideas about love?

Readers really haven't discussed with me how Twilight affected their ideas of love, probably because we're all aware that this is just fantasy. I can say, however, from the interactions I've had with readers at signings, there seem to be a couple of common ways that Twilight has impacted people. For many, Twilight was an awakening or reawakening to the enjoyment of reading for pleasure; many readers went on to become much more active readers across many genres. Also, many readers have expressed to me that they've made lifelong friends through discussing Twilight online with other readers. Another frequent comment is that Twilight prompted the reader to start writing her own story. All of these responses make me really happy.

In recent years we have seen a rise in feminism among young women. Do you think the Twilight series — and Bella and the choices she makes — would still resonate with readers 10 years later?

People still seem to really enjoy the experience of falling in love, so I would say yes. Love stories will always have a place for some readers.

If you did write it today, what choices would you make differently about the plot, the characters?

Having just rewritten the story for the 10th anniversary edition, I can safely say that I know I wouldn't change much. I would (and did) change some clunky words, and add in some fun things that I thought of later. Twilight was a fun writing experience. I think my approach has always been and probably will always be to have fun and entertain myself. METRO CANADA

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STEP INTO ANOTHER WORLD

Quarterlife crisis put into words

Pretty Little Liars star Shay Mitchell, right, and her best friend vlogger Michaela Blaney, left, tackle the complications of twenty-something life in their new novel, Bliss. GETTY IMAGES

BLISS

Real-life pals write about life as twenty-somethings

Before Shay Mitchell got her big break on Pretty Little Liars, she was a bottle service girl in Toronto, booking parts when she could. Working a soulless job just to pay the bills? She's been there. Friend drama? She's had her share of that, too. Devastating heartbreak? Definitely.

All the ups and downs helped inspire Mitchell's new novel, Bliss (out today), which she wrote with her best friend, video blogger Michaela Blaney.

"Michaela and I got together and were just talking about the past and all the crazy experiences that made us who we are today," Mitchell tells Metro US. "We started jotting down ideas and thought, we could write a book about this. So that's kind of what we did."

Similar to Lauren Conrad's L.A. Candy series, Mitchell says much of what happened in the book actually happened to them, but they heightened the drama, which is where the fiction-element comes in. One character represents Mitchell, one represents Blaney and a third character is a composite of various people they know.

At it's crux, Bliss is about friendship more than anything else — and it isn't always pretty. "Friendships go through ups and downs just like a romantic relationship does," Mitchell says. "Michaela and I have certainly had our fair share of ups and downs. We had our fair share of ups and downs writing this book!"

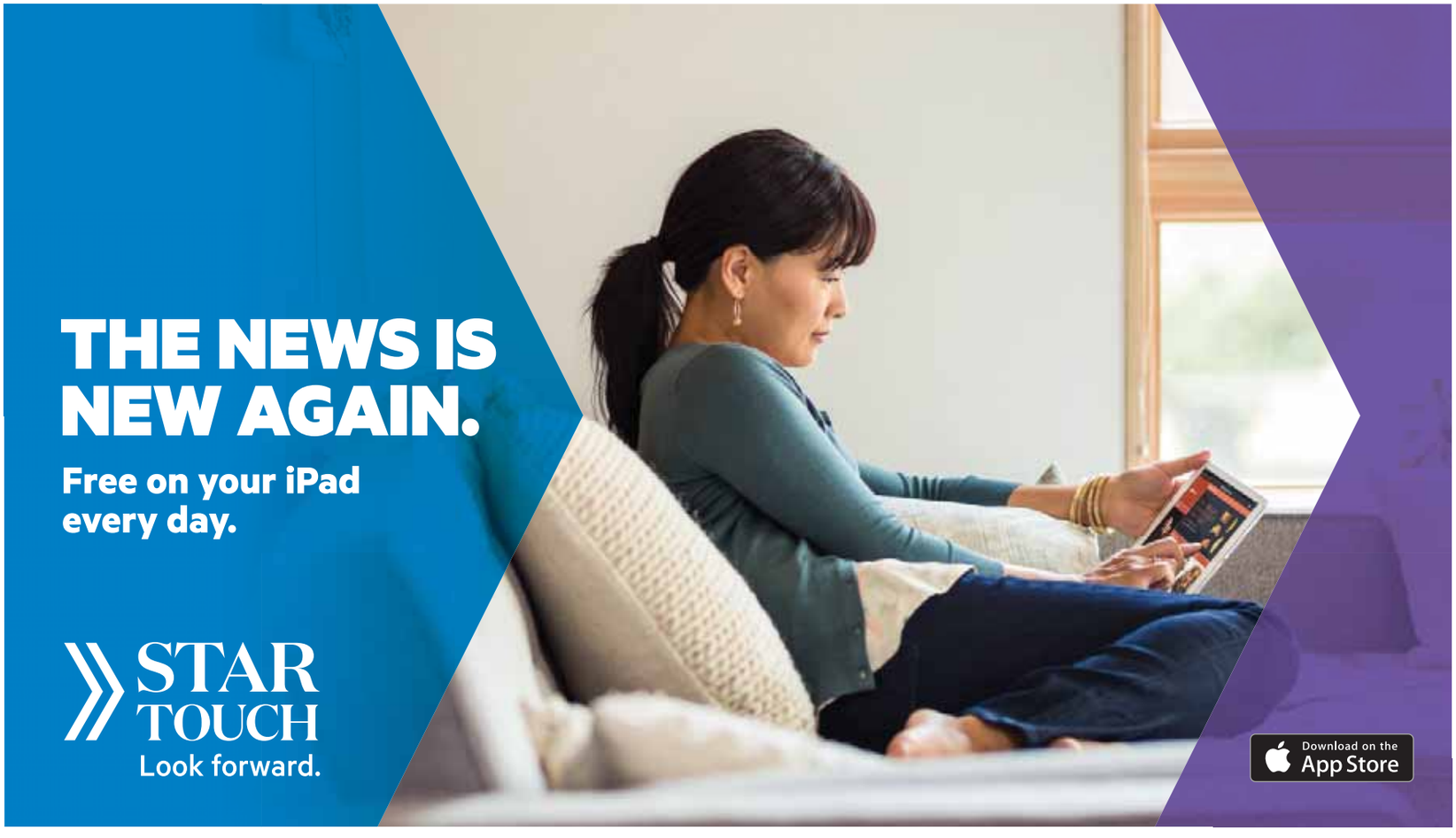
Mitchell's goal wasn't to make characters people liked. Instead, she wanted to make them real, showing both their good and bad sides. "None of these girls are bad girls," Mitchell says of the characters.

"They're just trying to find their 'bliss' while living in their 20s."
METRO US

TOUR STOP

Book tour stop: YouTube

While filming keeps Mitchell plenty busy, she says she has downtime on set, which is when she would work on her book. To help promote it, she's heading out on a book tour all across the U.S. She's also giving fans who can't make one of the signings a way to talk with her through the book. Next week (exact time TDB), Mitchell and Blaney will host a YouTube book party to answer readers' questions and just gossip together.
METRO US



A meditation on love and loss

PATTI SMITH

Writer wades into memories of marriage in literary sequel

M Train reflects on Patti's time with the late Fred Smith of MC5. GETTY IMAGES

Revered for her influence on punk rock, Patti Smith proved herself to be a literary heavyweight as well with her 2010 memoir, Just Kids, which won the National Book Award for Nonfiction.

Smith delves further into her literary persona in a follow-up book, M Train, a meditation on memory, loss and her worldwide quest for a perfect cup of coffee.

Just Kids offered a tender account of her relationship with avant-garde photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, in a memoir of artistic and sexual discovery but also of the gritty New York of the 1960s and 1970s that stirred their creative energies.

In M Train, which comes out Tuesday, Smith reflects on her life's other great, late love, rocker Fred "Sonic" Smith of the band MC5, for whom Patti Smith relocated to Detroit after they married in 1980.

She returned to New York with their two children after he died in 1994. But M Train is less tied to a city than Just Kids.

Instead the now 68-year-old Smith goes back into her memories — and her photographs, many of them reproduced — as she fondly recalls trips to places as varied as French Guiana, Tangier, Tokyo and Veracruz, the last of which was reputed to have the world's best coffee.

Yet M Train is also a book about loss — not only of her husband but of seemingly unrelated anchors in her life, including a club devoted to the study of Alfred Wegener, the German scientist best known for the Continental Drift theory, and a cafe in Greenwich Village where Smith every morning would sit at the same table and order black coffee and brown toast with olive oil.

"Why is it that we lose the things we love, and things cavalier cling to us and will be the measure of our worth after we're gone?" she writes.

A writer before rocker

Absent from M Train is virtually any direct mention of Smith's music, from her 1975 album Horses, which is often ranked among rock's most influential, to her best-known song, Because the Night.

Unlike so many rock memoirists, Smith has no interest in boasting of excesses.

In M Train, she obliquely refers to shows as "jobs" and, to explain how in 1978 she was able to lease a building in New York, writes that she "came into a little money."

"I feel embarrassed when people call me a musician," Smith said Saturday night at The New Yorker Festival ahead of the book's release.

Smith told the event that she can "play a few chords," but that she ultimately considered herself a "performer" whose skill was working up crowds.

Smith, who grew up in working-class southern New Jersey, said that neither of her parents completed high school but belonged to a generation that considered reading their entertainment. Her father, she said, would casually quote Aristotle.

Smith's own literary aspirations were born after her childhood discovery of French doomed poet Arthur Rimbaud, and she has long published her own verse along with music.

More books on way

Smith, explaining why she wrote the latest book, joked Saturday that her late husband was envious of the attention to Mapplethorpe via Just Kids.

Smith said she had further books in progress including a companion to Just Kids that would focus on music.

Merging her literary and musical sides, she is following the release of M Train with a concert tour of Europe and the United States to mark the 40th anniversary of Horses. AFP

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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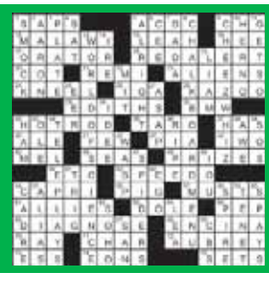

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Finding his way through his father

MORE THAN A NATIVE STORY

What Wab Kinew learned from time with his dying dad

Wab Kinew is one of the leading First Nations figures in Canada. It wasn't always that way; in his youth he struggled to find the right path.

In 2012, he found out his father was dying of cancer. He took that year to spend with him. He learned more than he thought about himself and his culture. That year is recounted in Kinew's book The Reason You Walk, published by Viking Canada.

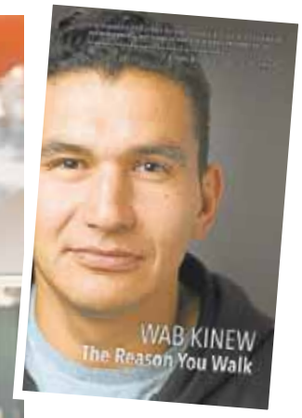
What was your relationship with your dad like as a child?
When I was a child I would say that the relationship was very negative. I was walking on eggshells, I was scared of him. And then it gradually started to ameliorate, particularly when I became an adult, and I recognized, well, he's got his issues but I want to learn from him. I want to learn the language and the culture.

In 2012, there was just a much greater impetus, so with that looming sense of mortality we lived that last year so that we could have the relationship and be able to say there were no regrets and no things left unsaid between us.

People don't often take the chance to spend time with a loved one they know is dying.
I'd always been raised hearing these values, you know, family first and take care of your elders and things like that. And I just realized, your life is the product of the decisions you make in moments like these and so if I want to live by those ethics then I better walk that walk.

That year gave you a real personal understanding of the stories the truth and reconciliation commission are trying to get at. Can you talk about that?
Ironically I think one of the really big moments came after my father's death, when I went back and I listed to the actual testimony. He gave an account entirely in the Ojibway language, not just what he experienced in residential school, (but also) a thorough account of the spirituality of our people, of the ceremonies, he gave an instruction in how to pray in the Anishinawbe way, and he delivered it all in the language of his birth. And then he concluded with a call to his descendents, 'Here are your ways. Pick them up and learn this language.'

Wab Kinew discovers the value of walking the walk of his culture. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



This really seems like a universal story.
I ask some of the same questions a newcomer (to Canada) asks. 'I was a warrior; what am I now?' Or 'I was a farmer, what am I now?' 'I had this identity, but what am I now?' That's one of the things I hope people get out of the book is that they don't just see it as a native story. This is a human story told through an indigenous lens ... really these are the same questions and desire to find meaning that all of us are asking in the modern world.

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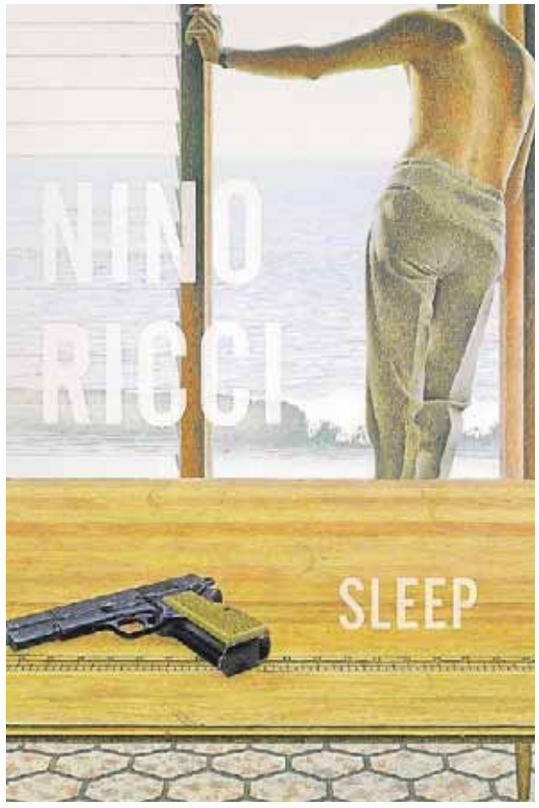
Things that go bump in the night

NINO RICCI

Author's latest a disturbing look at realm of sleeplessness



For Nino Ricci, imagining the last words of a novel usually inspires the story he wants to tell. His new book Sleep was no exception.

"What came to me first was the book's ending — and the book's last line really — and I thought, 'Yeah, that seems to have resonance. Now I just have to figure out how my character ends up there,"' says Ricci, who won Governor General's Awards for Fiction for his novels Lives of the Saints and The Origin of the Species.

"Most of my books actually work that way — that I get a final image of some sort and I can feel the feeling in that situation and then I try and unspool the story from that."

Sleep, a disturbing look at a history professor's descent into the realm of sleeplessness, starts with a near-tragedy, keeps the reader on edge throughout, and ends explosively.

David Pace has a successful career with a beautiful wife, who's also an academic. They have a young son and a gorgeous home.

But David begins to have trouble sleeping, then falls asleep at inopportune moments. After he's diagnosed with a sleep disorder, he increasingly relies on pharmaceuticals and engages in deviant sexual behaviour.

Ricci suffers from sleep problems, but any other similarities with the protagonist end there, says Ricci during an interview at the office of publisher Doubleday.

"He's a more extreme character than I am and also has more extreme interpretations than I do. We have to take his depictions with a bit of a grain of salt, but it's all drawn from things I've actually been through myself and experienced first-hand," Ricci says.

David grows increasingly jealous of his wife's academic success and his twin brother's amassing wealth. He alienates colleagues, has financial problems and becomes obsessed with guns.

Ricci, who has been awarded the Order of Canada, lives in Toronto with his wife and 14-year-old son. He loves watching films in his spare time.

"In another life I would have liked to be a film director, but I would never have the authority to command a film set. That's just not my personality," he says.

"But there's a part of me that always wanted to go in that direction because film is so much the medium of our time."

Ricci dedicated Sleep to Canadian novelist, filmmaker and musician Paul Quarrington, his close friend who died of lung cancer in 2010 at age 56.

Quarrington and his wife introduced Ricci to his wife. They had children around the same age, and the two families took holidays together.

"He knew everyone — he knew everyone in the writing world, he knew people in the music world and the film world, so all I had to do was hang out with Paul and my social life was taken care of. Just go wherever Paul went. And I knew whenever I went anywhere Paul was there, that I was kind of safe, like he was like my godfather.

"My life feels very diminished since he died," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

He's a more extreme character than I am.

Nino Ricci, on the main character in Sleep

WRITING WHAT YOU KNOW

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE ILLUSTRATION

If Ricci's descriptions of sleep clinics seem realistic, it's because the author suffers from a sleep disorder diagnosed about 10 years ago.

But any other similarities with the protagonist end there, says Ricci during an interview at the office of publisher Doubleday.

The 56-year-old author, who has taught Canadian studies at Princeton University, says he can now "function quite normally" with narcolepsy.

"I was very worried at the outset about pumping my body full of all these chemicals, but I don't think it's affected my creative process. I went through trying different medications and there was one I tried where I couldn't write," he says.

"I would sit down and I would write a sentence and it wouldn't seem right. I'd write it a different way and by the end I'd have 12 versions of it and I couldn't decide which was the right one.

"It was very paralyzing, as if I'd lost the big picture or a sense of esthetic judgement."

SHAKESPEARE

Authors reimagine the Bard

This week sees the publication of the first instalment in a multi-year project to mark the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, with authors including Jeanette Winterson, Gillian Flynn, Howard Jacobson and Margaret Atwood putting a contemporary spin on the Bard's classics.

Winterson's reimagining of The Winter's Tale, called The Gap of Time, came out Tuesday and sets the publishing project in motion, with an approach of staying true to the original play while bringing something new to it.

In the original Winter's Tale, a king's jealousy results in his baby daughter being banished and the death of his wife. His daughter is raised on the Bohemian coast, but a series of events reunite them all.

Winterson's version sets the story in London in 2008, when the city is reeling from the financial crisis. Standing in for the Bohemian coast is New Bohemia, a fictional storm-ravaged U.S. city with similar to New Orleans.

The Guardian notes "how readily the plot translates to a modern context" and says that Winterson has captured the essence of the original "with evident respect and affection for Shakespeare's text, and made it new with her own bold and poetic prose and her insights into love and grief."

In 2016, the 400th anniversary year, look for Jacobson's The Merchant of Venice in February, Anne Tyler's The Taming of the Shrew in June and Atwood's The Tempest in October. AFP

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Author a double finalist

AWARDS

Rachel Cusk shortlisted for Giller and GG

After making the short list for the $100,000 Scotiabank Giller Prize on Monday, Rachel Cusk is now a finalist for another lucrative honour — a Governor General's Literary Award.

Cusk, who was born in Canada and lives in London, is on the short list for the $25,000 fiction prize for Outline (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.).

Other fiction finalists include two-time Governor General's award winner Guy Vanderhaeghe of Saskatoon, who made the cut for Daddy Lenin and Other Stories (McClelland & Stewart/Penguin Random House Canada).

The short list is rounded out by Helen Humphreys of Kingston, Ont., for The Evening Chorus (HarperCollins), Toronto's Kate Cayley for How You Were Born (Pedlar Press), and Clifford Jackman of Guelph, Ont., with The Winter Family (Random House Canada/Penguin Random House Canada).

The Canada Council for the Arts administers the awards, which honour writers in both official languages and in seven categories. Each winner, chosen by peer assessment committees, receives $25,000.

This year's non-fiction, English-language short list includes former finalist Ted Bishop of Edmonton for The Social Life of Ink: Culture, Wonder, and Our Relationship with the Written Word (Viking/Penguin Random House Canada).

CBC correspondent David Halton of Ottawa is on the list for a book on his dad, Dispatches from the Front: Matthew Halton, Canada's Voice at War (McClelland & Stewart/Penguin Random House Canada).

St. John's journalist Michael Harris made the cut for Party of One: Stephen Harper and Canada's Radical Makeover (Viking/Penguin Random House Canada).

Aboriginal literature scholar Armand Garnet Ruffo of Kingston, Ont., is a contender with Norval Morrisseau: Man Changing into Thunderbird (Douglas & McIntyre).

And Vancouver bee expert Mark L. Winston is a finalist for Bee Time: Lessons from the Hive (Harvard University Press).

Other notable nominees for a 2015 Governor General's Literary Award include Montreal's Donald Winkler, who is also on the Giller short list, for translating the short story collection Arvida by Samuel Archibald. For the GG honour, he's a finalist in the category of Translation (French to English) for Montcalm & Wolfe: Two Men Who Forever Changed the Course of Canadian History (HarperCollins) by Roch Carrier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

OTHER GOVERNOR GENERAL'S FINALISTS

Poetry
- Kayla Czaga of Vancouver with For Your Safety Please Hold On
- Liz Howard of Toronto for Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent
- M. Travis Lane of Fredericton for Crossover
- Patrick Lane of North Saanich, B.C. for Washita
- Robyn Sarah of Montreal for My Shoes Are Killing Me

Drama
- Beth Graham of Edmonton for The Gravitational Pull of Bernice Trimble
- Tara Grammy and Tom Arthur Davis of Los Angeles/Toronto for Mahmoud
- Bryden MacDonald of Toronto for Odd Ducks
- David Yee of Toronto for carried away on the crest of a wave
- Marcus Youssef and James Long of Vancouver/New Westminster, B.C. for Winners and Losers

Children's Literature
- Dan Bar-el of Vancouver for Audrey (cow)
- Darren Groth of Delta, B.C. for Are You Seeing Me?
- Susin Nielsen of Vancouver for We Are All Made of Molecules
- Caroline Pignat of Ottawa for The Gospel Truth
- Emil Sher of Toronto for Young Man with Camera

Rachel Cusk is on the short list for the Governor General's Literary Award prize for Outline. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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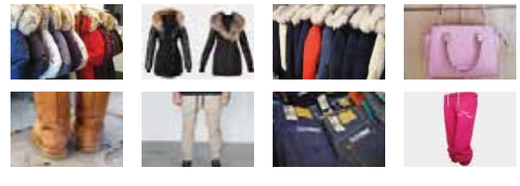

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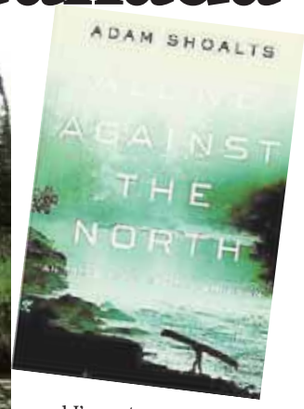
Scouting the extreme wilds of Canada

INTERVIEW

Adam Shoalts took a solo trip to find an uncharted river

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Adam Shoalts tows his canoe on the kind of expedition "where you wouldn't exactly want to go for a picnic." TORSTAR ARCHIVE



The afternoon after Adam Shoalts moved into his new home in the picturesque town of Paris, Ont, he already had plans to paddle the Grand River and explore some nearby ponds he discovered on topographical maps. While many would consider that an adventure, for Shoalts, it's the equivalent of a leisurely stroll in the park.

Shoalts' explorations of Canada's wilderness have earned him the reputation of a modern-day Magellan (or a real-life Indiana Jones, as the Toronto Star dubbed him).

His debut book, Alone Against the North: An Expedition into the Unknown, published by Viking Canada, tracks his dangerous solo journeys through the Hudson Bay Lowlands in search of a mysterious river that had never been canoed or documented in its entirety.

While the book is a nail-biting chronicle of polar-bear encounters, brutal swarms of black flies and surprise tumbles down waterfalls, Shoalts also vividly describes an area of the country most of us will never witness.

"We're living in a world with seven billion people in the 21st century. When I go to these places, it's hard not to feel a sense of the divine," he says.

"I'm not a religious person at all, but the closest to a religious experience that I know is going to these pristine wilderness areas."

Shoalts, who is currently working on his Ph.D. at McMaster University, grew up in rural Ontario, where he and his fraternal-twin brother would search the forest behind their house for raccoon skulls and fox dens.

He recalls being inspired as a 13-year-old by Farley Mowat's wilderness novel Lost in the Barrens. "I got obsessed with this idea of doing extreme journeys where you wouldn't exactly want to go for a picnic," he says.

Although he's gained international fame for his voyages, Shoalts didn't start out travelling on his own.

While leading his first expedition for the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, Shoalts' best friend, who was accompanying him, called a float pilot to take him back home.

"He decided it was more glamorous to read about it than actually do it," says Shoalts.

"It was monotonous, repetitive and cold. I was rightly horrified at the idea of doing journeys alone in polar-bear territory, and I never planned to do one that way. I could have gone home and said I failed but I couldn't stand that thought. There was no way I was going to quit."

Shoalts was aware of the risks — bears are more likely to attack single travellers — and then there's the gruelling work of paddling and portaging long distances alone, or setting up a dry camp during a lightning storm. But he discovered the intangible benefit of not worrying about his fellow trekkers.

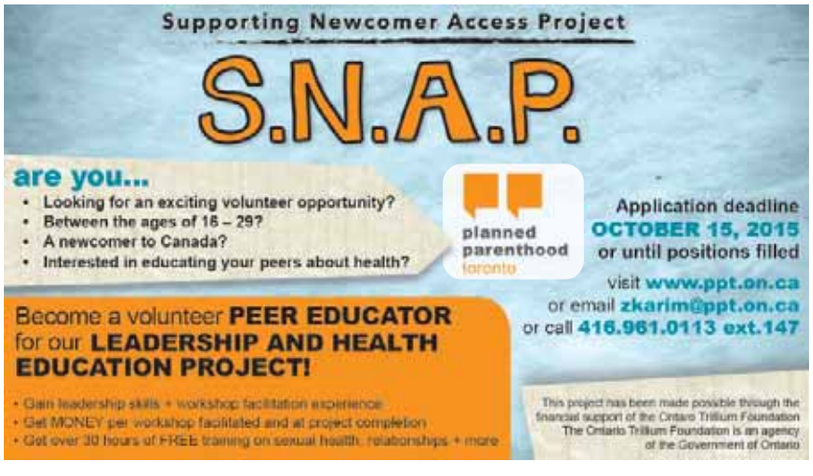
"I push myself every day and I'm not going to get tired of what I'm doing. What I find with expeditions with other people is you have to make sure their spirits are up each day," he says.

"I've had times where it's rained for two weeks straight. You're often sleeping on a small patch of dry land and on the other side of you there's just swamp. There are parts of Canada's wilderness that are majestic and awe-inspiring, but those aren't the places I go exploring."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

When I go to these places, it's hard to not feel a sense of the divine

Adam Shoalts on exploring uncharted territories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BIRTHS

Baby for Carey Mulligan

Carey Mulligan popped back into the public eye this week at the London Film Festival debut of her new film, Suffragette, and she brought along with her some joyous news.

"Carey has given birth to a healthy and happy baby," a source tells E! News.

"She is just enjoying this time with her family and close friends."

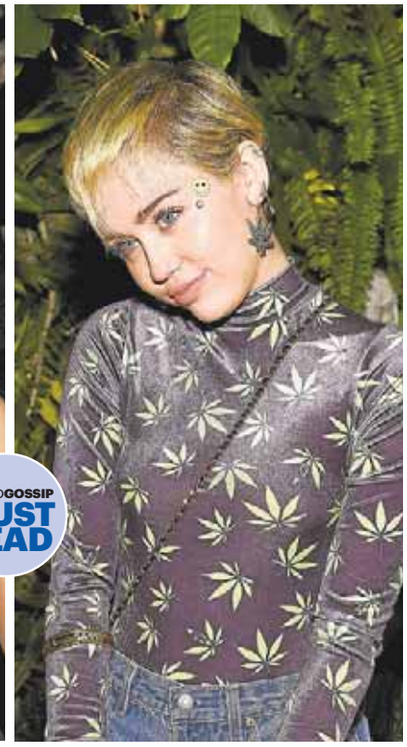
Well, and standing awkwardly with Meryl Streep on a red carpet, but still.

Mulligan and husband Marcus Mumford — of Mumford and Sons fame — married in 2012 and first confirmed they were expecting back in June when her appearance at the Tonys made it impossible to hide the news.

She had to sit out the world premiere of Suffragette at the Telluride Film Festival in late September because she was about to give birth, if you want to try to pinpoint the exact date of delivery. Which is weird, why would you do that? Anyway, no word yet on the gender, mostly because they don't want us to go with the obvious headlines. Well, we certainly showed them, didn't we?

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Carey Mulligan



metroGOSSIP MUST READ

Nicki Minaj and Miley Cyrus aren't making peace any time soon. ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Minaj fires up feud with Miley Cyrus

INTERVIEWS

Quotes in NYT Mag show fight far from over

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

So that feud between Nicki "Miley, what's good?" Minaj and Miley Cyrus?

Yeah, totally not going away anytime soon. After Cyrus made some comments about Minaj to the New York Times that Minaj reacted to at the VMAs, things seemed to calm down.

But Minaj just did an interview with the New York Times Magazine that proves she's far from over it.

"The fact that you feel upset about me speaking on something that affects black women makes me feel like you have some big balls," Minaj says.

"You're in videos with black men, and you're bringing out black women on your stages, but you don't want to know how black women feel about something that's so important?

"Come on, you can't want the good without the bad.

"If you want to enjoy our culture and our lifestyle, bond with us, dance with us, have fun with us, twerk with us, rap with us, then you should also want to know what affects us, what is bothering us, what we feel is unfair to us.

"You shouldn't not want to know that."

BODY IMAGE

Fat shaming sent Selena to therapy

Good job, everybody. Any taunting or comments made about Selena Gomez's figure after she posted a photo of herself in a bikini back in May ended up sending her off looking for professional help. Hope you're proud of yourselves, jerks.

"I've been working in therapy," she tells Us Weekly. "I'd land at the airport and people would yell out, 'You're fat!' It was awful. I've been working since I was seven. This is the first year I ever dealt with anyone talking about my body. Even if I did gain weight, I'm fine. That's what the picture represents."

Also, having seen the picture in question, I have no idea what you people are talking about. That's what we're calling fat now? There's no hope for anyone.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Selena Gomez

GOSSIP BRIEFS

Miranda Lambert has 'never felt more inspired'

Sometimes an artist just needs to shake things up, make a change, ditch the routines if she wants to really get those juices flowing and get productive. And sometimes she just needs to end her marriage. Miranda Lambert insists that since splitting up with Blake Shelton and moving back to Nashville, she's been more productive than ever, writing music every day. "I've never felt more inspired," she said at her Music City Walk of Fame induction ceremony this week. "I've written music basically every single day for the whole summer, and it was my first summer off the road and I've never felt more ready to make music." I wonder what she's been writing about.

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Tom Hanks reunites student with university ID card

Tom Hank's tweet worked! A student named Lauren who lost her Fordham University ID card has been found.

The Oscar-winning actor tweeted a photo of the card Tuesday after finding it in a park. He covered up the woman's last name with his finger in the photo.

WCBS-TV says it located Fordham senior Lauren Whitmore on Tuesday. Whitmore says she was jogging in Central Park on Monday when she must have lost the card.

She says if Hanks wants to return it, she'll "surely meet him to do that."

Hanks stars in the upcoming Cold War thriller Bridge of Spies.

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The new single-family home

CONDO TRENDS

As prices of houses rise, so does appeal of condo towns

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

Are condominium townhomes becoming the single-family homes of the future? According to some real estate watchers, this could be the new trend in downtown Toronto, as prices of houses continue their skyward ascent.

For some homebuyers, particularly those with growing families who wish to live downtown, a condominium may not be the answer. Small suite sizes, and lack of schools and family-friendly amenities, may be a detractor.

The solution comes in the form of a condo townhome, which offers the living space of a small house with the convenience of condo living. The cost can be much lower as well, since townhomes don't offer the same range of expensive building amenities as their highrise counterparts.

Scott Hanton is a sales representative with the Weir Team of Keller Williams Advantage Realty. He says that larger condos are still scarce in the downtown.

"Three-bedroom condos are still very much a rarity and very expensive for most buyers. Three-bedroom condo townhomes start to make much more sense to families who want to stay in the core without sacrificing on living space."

There are also concerns about buying older homes.

"We're seeing a lot of first-time buyers worrying about house prices in popular downtown areas like Leslieville. A handful of buyers simply want to break into the market with a fixer-upper for under $500,000. But many young buyers are afraid of the 'unknowns' that can come with Toronto's 100-year-old houses," says Hanton.

The condo townhome housing form is also popular with builders, as towns are faster to finance, approve and build, compared to highrise towers. Also, they blend in well with existing residential neighbourhoods.

"It's just simple math," says Alex Wilson, principal of the alexjwilson.com team at RE/Max Condos Plus, "if we look at the demand for the standalone home, and that continues to increase and the supply continues to decrease."

Wilson says the condo towns fill a need and that we may well see more of this style of home being built in downtown neighbourhoods.

"There's that void where we have millennials starting to have families and they're priced out of that standalone market. So this condo townhome lowrise style becomes the ideal middle ground that allows individuals to get their starter homes in desirable neighbourhoods."

The Anchors at Lakeview by Dunsire Developments is a collection of urban towns that offer the living space of a small home. DUNSIRE DEVELOPMENTS

The Marquette urban townhomes in Toronto's west end feature spacious interiors, rooftop terraces, balconies and patios. KUBO DEVELOPMENTS

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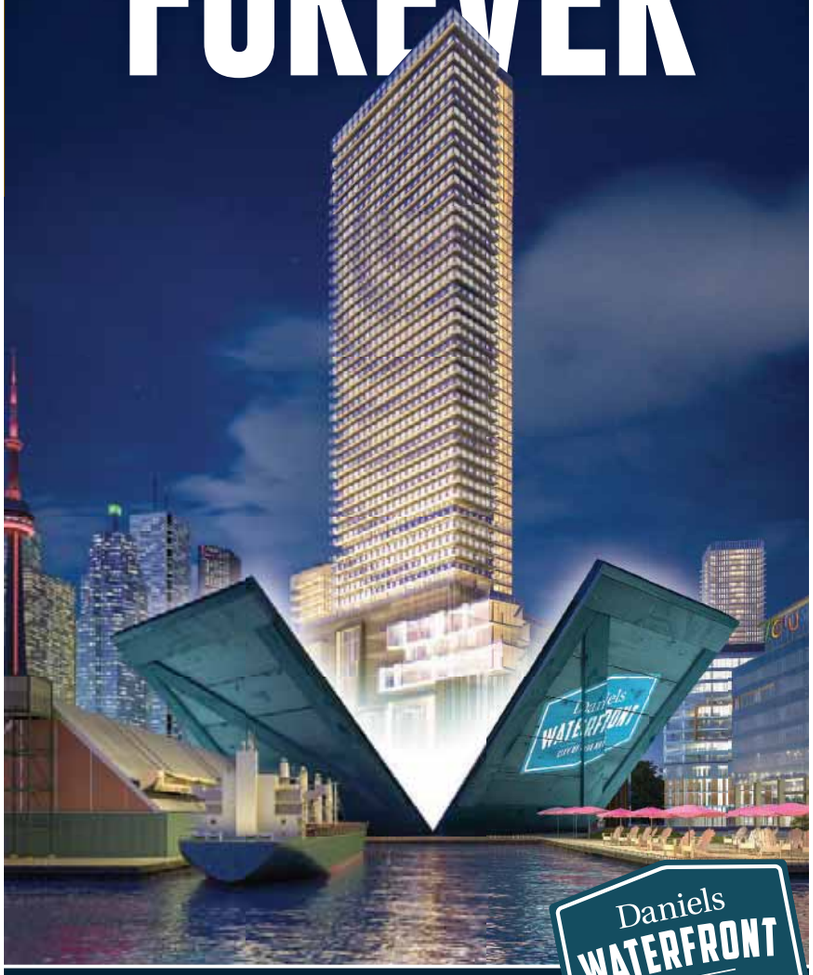

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GTA builders win big at provincial awards

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Several BILD members were recently recognized for innovation and excellence in design, sales and marketing with Awards of Distinction — an annual competition that celebrates the best in building, development and home renovation in Ontario.

Empire Communities was named the 2015 Ontario Home Builder of the Year. The GTA-based company was recognized for its commitment to building high-quality, environmentally friendly communities, supporting numerous charities across the province and providing homebuyers with exceptional customer service.

Tribute Communities received top honours in the Most Outstanding Mid-Rise Building category, recognizing projects between four and 10 storeys. The company won for Varley Condominium Residences in Unionville, which was designed by Graziani Corazza Architects.

The Most Outstanding High-Rise Building award was presented to Great Gulf Homes for its One Bloor development. This distinguished project is the product of an impressive team of professionals that includes architects Hariri Pontarini, interior designers Cecconi Simone, and marketing agencies Community and L.A. Inc.

In suite design, FRAM Building Group captured the prize for Most Outstanding High or Mid-Rise Condo Suite under 800 square feet for "soul 5," part of its Soul Condos development in North York and designed by CORE Architects and UNION31.

BILD members also excelled in a number of sales and marketing categories, including best video, website, project logo, brochure and low-rise advertising campaign. Congratulations to agencies 52 Pick-Up, Zerofractal, Blackjet Inc., BAM Builder Advertising & Marketing and Montana Steele for their hard work.

These awards are a testament to the hard work that goes into building quality, complete communities across the GTA.

SELLING IT

Another important element of bringing new communities to life is the on-site sales process. A number of local GTA builders and their agencies were recognized for their work in this area, including Concert Properties, UNION31 and 52 Pick-Up for the Kip District sales office in Etobicoke, as well as Geranium Homes, Colours & Concepts and Builder Insight Group for the interior decorating of the Uptownes at Cardinal Point model home.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 YORK MILLS

Grand opening: 1215 York Mills at The Ravine is a new master-planned condo community in the heart of York Mills. Check out the presentation centre at 1213 York Mills Rd.

CONTACT: 416-850-2489, THERAVINE.CA

2 UPPER JARVIS

Open house: Here's a two-bedroom, two-bathroom suite for sale at the James Cooper Mansion condos. Head over to 28 Linden St., on Oct. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: ROSS BONGELLI, 416-829-0443

3 GARDEN DISTRICT

Now previewing: The Stanley condos at Church and Carlton is a new development near the College subway at 70 Carlton St., with luxury amenities. Call for more information and to register.

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LEGAL MATTERS

My place, or not — honesty is essential

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

Q: We are buying a condo for investment purposes that we plan on renting out for the time being, but may move into in the future. In speaking with our mortgage broker she stated that if we were moving into the property we would get a better interest rate versus renting the property out. So, we indicated we were moving in and the paperwork arrived at our lawyer's office with this in mind. Our lawyer, in speaking with the mortgage company, indicated that we were not moving in and the company changed the documents, the interest rate and the timing of the entire transaction.

It seems wrong that *our* lawyer informed the mortgage company about this when at the end of the day it makes no difference and we will obviously make sure the mortgage gets paid every month. What should we do?

A: Your lawyer is not only working for you but also for the mortgage company because he is providing an opinion with respect to the title to your property. I am sure this was explained to you because the Law Society requires it. So, your lawyer can't lie to the mortgage company unless he wants to be put on a list of not being able to provide legal advice to this financial institution (aside from not telling the truth about a financial transaction).

You must be honest in your dealings with the mortgagee; otherwise, you are in default and they can deny your loan. Renting versus primary occupation is a big thing and is not to be played with.

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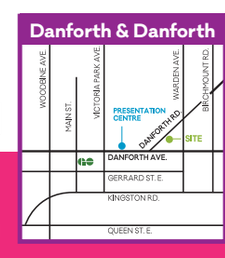

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Moving on up in Uptown Markham

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

Riverside condominium residences is the latest phase of Uptown Markham, a new master-planned condominium community. The two buildings will feature a contemporary exterior of brick and stone finish, with large luminous windows and roof gardens.

Location and transit

The buildings are situated close to major arteries such as Warden Avenue and highways 7 and 407, as well as VIVA, TTC and GO transit, with a BRT system coming soon across Highway 7.

Building amenities

The condo offers an outdoor swimming pool and a 10th-floor sun deck with landscaped terrace and barbecues. There's a well-equipped fitness centre, an indoor lounge with a bar and TV screens and a party room complete with dining area and bar.

In the neighbourhood

Located across the street from Whole Foods Market, it's a 15-minute walk to the proposed York University in Markham Centre and to the Cineplex and Flato theatres. As well, the Uptown Market has become the retail destination in the Markham-Richmond Hill area.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Riverside
Builder: Times Group Corporation
Architect: Kirkor Architects + Planners
Interiors: Hefele Makowka Design Associates Inc.
Location: 15 and 25 Water Walk Dr., in Markham
Building: An eight- and 28-storey condominium with 613 units
Sizes: From 485 to 1,523 sq. ft.
Pricing: From the mid-$200,000s
Suites: 117 types of suite layouts
Status: Pre-construction and registration phase
Occupancy: July 2019
Sales centre: 60 South Town Centre Blvd., Markham
Hours: Monday to Thursday 12 to 7 p.m., weekends 12 to 5 p.m.
Phone: 905-479-5557
Website: uptownmarkham.com/riverside
Email: info@uptownmarkham.com

8 FALL ENTERTAINING ITEMS INSPIRED BY FARMHOUSE DECOR

It's that time of the year when friends and family focus on entertaining. With the farm-to-table food trend still going strong, let's entertain with a few stylish farmhouse-inspired helpers.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada

1 Store it with charm
Keep your homemade brews in one safe place. Post & Rail Wine Cabinet, $806, UrbanBarn.com

2 Made for hot stuff
Old World crafting keeps tables and counters protected in style. Wool PomPom Trivet, $18, Simons.ca

3 Put a lid on it
From oven to table in one dish. Lodge Cast Iron 5-qt Dutch Oven, $80, CrateAndBarrel.com

4 Put it on a pedestal
Serve it up with some lumberjack elegance. Dorotea Ceramics Cast Trunk Cake Stands, $88 each, Anthropologie.com

5 Keep it clean
Cook and serve up dinner in farmhouse style. Washed Linen Apron, $46, ZaraHome.com

6 Fine silver charm
Use as an oversized napkin, a placemat, or frame as fabulous kitchen art. Cutlery Print Kitchen Towel, $18/set of 2, ZaraHome.com

7 Give it flavour
Let your pumpkin patch inspire the flavour as an ice cream or latte topping. Fontana Pumpkin Spice Sauce, $31/63 oz, Starbucks.ca

8 Press & serve
Up your style with thermal heat-keeping walls and trendy materials. Stainless Steel 8-Cup Coffee Press with Walnut Handle, $46, Starbucks.ca

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Stay on budget for your reno

HOME

How to get the best quote, and other important tips

Liz Brown

The lowest price isn't always the best choice. Sometimes it's better to pay a little more for quality and experience. SHUTTERSTOCK

Home renovations are pricey propositions. And if you don't set a precise budget and vision, the project can quickly balloon in cost and scope. Planning, research and clear communication with your contractor are keys to keeping your home reno running on schedule and budget.

The first step to an on-budget reno is to come up with a clear work description and give the same description to each contractor, according to Rick Hagel, general manager at Sierra Property Services Ltd. in Vancouver. "You want contractors to be comparing apples to apples," he says.

"Say you want to do a kitchen. You need to look at all of the things in your kitchen and outline what you want and what kind of quality those things should be. You need a specific list and the contractor should quote on that specific list first, and then offer any suggestions after. Don't let yourself be swayed before the initial quote is offered."

Homeowners should seek three to five quotes to get a good idea of what a project should cost. And Trevor Jones of Caniwi Construction in B.C. advises to not just select the cheapest quote. "The lowest price isn't always the best choice. It is often better to pay a little more for quality and experience," he says.

A good sign you have drawn up a specific work plan that contractors understand is if all contractors submit bids in the same general price. "(From this) you can assume you are getting a fair price for the work you described to them and they all understood the same scope of work for your project," says Gary Sharp, director of renovator services at the Canadian Home Builders' Association's national office in Ottawa.

Homeowners also need to factor in unexpected costs to their budget. "Home renovations always cost more than you think they will," says Tyler Moffet, a carpenter and contractor in Calgary. "Once you start tearing things apart, there's always something you come across that needs more work."

Moffet says a general rule of thumb in the industry is to budget 15 to 20 per cent more than the contractor's quote. "This way, if you run into a problem, it's not an issue to come up with the funds, and if all goes well, you have some gravy money at the end."

Choosing a contractor

Choosing the right contractor is the most important decision you will make during a home renovation, but it can be hard to know where to start looking for the right professional for your needs.

"Checking references is by far the best advice," says Gary Sharp, director of renovator services at the Canadian Home Builders' Association's national office in Ottawa.

Sharp recommends preparing a list of questions before calling a reference, focusing on the contract, if the contractor stayed on budget and what the renovation team was like. "Did they smoke in the house, were they professional?" he says.

Rick Hagel, general manager of Sierra Property Services Ltd. in Vancouver, says that homeowners should check with associations like the Better Business Bureau, to see if the contractor is a member and if there have been any complaints.

"You can see what kind of a work record a contractor has," says Hagel, noting it's not just about the quality of work, but also how the contractor reacts to adversity. "If there has been a problem, you want to know the contractor attended to it immediately."

Checking references is an important part of finding the right contractor. This isn't a time to cut corners. SHUTTERSTOCK

Tyler Moffet, a Calgary-based carpenter and contractor says a good place to start your search is your own neighbourhood.

"Drive around your area and look for crews working on homes. Ask the homeowner to see the work and what they think of it and if the job is running on schedule," he says, adding: "It's like a job interview, you need references. You don't just ask someone you don't know to come into your house."

After you've checked references, it's time to ask for bids from the contractors. Collecting bids from three to five contractors is a good way to determine what a fair price for your project is. "If the bids are significantly different from each other, there may be a valid explanation, such as one contractor forgot to include a major component in their bid," says Sharp.

A good proposal will include a schedule of draws (payments) that are linked to milestones on the project. Hagel says most experienced contractors with good capital resources won't ask for a deposit up front, before any work is performed.

"We make sure all of our customers know that no money changes hands until there is some value for the work that has been performed. That's a key thing for determining if you want to work with a contractor, because someone who needs money right away could be a problem down the road."

LIZ BROWN

UP TO THE TASK?

To DIY or not to DIY

If you're a homeowner who's handy, or likes to save money, it can be tempting to take on a home renovation project yourself. And while there's a certain pride in knowing you created your own deck or tiled your own bathroom, you need to be certain you're up to the task before you start tearing things apart.

"Consider your own skills and abilities carefully when planning a project," says David Foster, senior director of communications at the Canadian Home Builders Association in Ottawa. "While many of today's home improvement products are designed to make it easy for do-it-yourselfers, other projects will require specific skills. Seeing how something was done on a TV renovation show isn't the same as having practical experience. Getting in over your head can end up costing more money and causing a lot of frustration, than hiring a professional to help in the first place," he adds.

For guidance or to get an idea for your aptitude for a project, consider taking a course. Many home improvement stores offer introductory classes on basic home reno tasks and colleges offer more in-depth courses. If you do decide to go ahead with a project yourself, be sure to check with your municipal building inspector if a permit is needed for the work being planned.

"In general, a permit is required if you are making your house larger. A permit is required if you are modifying a structural wall or other structural component of the home," says Gary Sharp, director of renovator services at the Canadian Home Builders Association.

"Don't know if a wall is structural or not? That's likely a good sign not to DIY," he jokes.

Even if you are a skill tradeperson or a seasoned do-it-yourselfer, you should consider the practicality of undertaking a home renovation on your own. "A common scenario is that getting the work done simply takes much longer than anticipated," says Foster. "Homeowners get caught in this sort of thing all the time. …The two weekends of work you planned to do the job stretch out to two months and your kitchen isn't finished and your spouse has smoke coming out his or her ears."

Foster doesn't want to discourage people from DIY projects, but advises them to think carefully if they do have the time to put in the work and then assume it will take twice as long as they expect.

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Call the doctor

VISIT

When to seek medical attention for your cold

Rhonda Riche

What most Canadians call the common cold is actually an upper respiratory tract infection caused by one of more than 200 viruses.

The most common of these bugs are the rhinoviruses. In a healthy person, this infection is irritating, but relatively innocuous and in one or two weeks, the symptoms are gone.

But, sometimes, colds can lead to complications. Because the cold virus can also affect the tube that connects your middle ear and throat, sufferers are also at risk for sinusitis and ear infections.

If your cold lingers for more than a week and you begin to have fever, pain in the sinus area or you are having trouble sleeping or hearing, you should see a doctor.

While getting enough rest and eating healthy meals can help boost your immune system, cold-related infections like bronchitis and strep throat can still creep up on you.

Most people recover from bronchitis (a.k.a., a chest cold) without any additional treatment, but you should seek medical attention if your mucus gets thick and dark or you experience shortness of breath.

With strep throat, call your doctor if your sore throat isn't getting better or you have difficulty swallowing.

Many illnesses can start off with cold-like symptoms. The flu is one of them. Visit canada.ca/flu for the latest influenza updates and frequently asked questions. And when in doubt, it doesn't hurt to ask your doctor.

Colds can lead to complications. If your cold lingers for a few weeks, you should see a doctor. SHUTTERSTOCK

Reducing the risk of getting sick

Vaccination, handwashing and a healthy lifestyle are the best ways to protect yourself from the flu.

Yet, for some high-risk groups — particularly young children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with underlying health conditions — extra precautions may be necessary.

For example, children younger than six months are at high risk of serious flu complications because their immune systems are still developing, yet they are too young to get a flu vaccine.

Simple everyday actions can help reduce the risk of coming into contact with cold and flu viruses. For example, you can protect yourself and your infant by staying away from crowded places as much as possible, where you are more likely to be exposed to the virus.

If you become sick, cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue when you cough or sneeze (then wash your hands) and clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Call your doctor right away if your child younger than three months (12 weeks) has a rectal temperature of 101.3 F (38.5 C) or higher. Also, any fever that lasts more than one day in a child younger than two (or lasts more than three days in a child age two or older) should be checked out.

The same care should be taken if you are older, pregnant or have a pre-existing medical condition, such as lung or heart disease or a compromised immune system.

While you aren't at higher risk of contracting cold or flu, you may be more likely to experience serious complications. For example, infection in the lungs can trigger asthma attacks and a worsening of asthma symptoms.

Work with your primary health-care provider to come up with an action plan in case you get sick this cold and flu season.

It will help you recognize the difference between cold and flu symptoms and help you take precautions to keep illness at bay.

RHONDA RICHE

Simple everyday actions, like washing your hands, can help reduce the risk of coming into contact with cold and flu viruses. SHUTTERSTOCK

SYMPTOMS

Cold vs. flu

The symptoms of the flu and the common cold are quite similar.

But because influenza can lead to serious complications, it's important to understand the differences. Use this guide to help you spot the signs:

FEVER

Rare in colds. In flu, often high (102 F to 104 F, or 39 C to 40 C), starts suddenly and lasts three to four days.

ACHES AND FATIGUE

Sometimes mild in colds. In flu, these symptoms can be severe, including headaches, and can last two to three weeks.

COUGHING AND SNEEZING

Pretty common with a cold. Sneezing may accompany a flu, and chest discomfort is common and can become severe.

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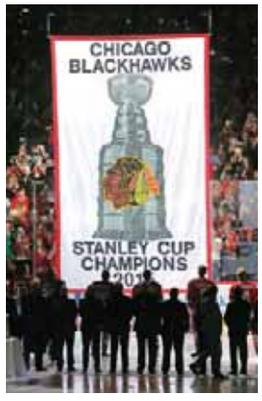
The 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander

Leafs open season with loss to Habs

OPENERS

Above: Brendan Gallagher of the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto Maple Leafs' Dion Phaneuf battle for the puck at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday. Alex Galchenyuk scored the winning goal in the Habs' 3-1 victory. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Right: The Chicago Blackhawks look on as their Stanley Cup championship banner is raised to the United Center rafters before their game against the New York Rangers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Rangers relish role of dark horse to Jays

MLB PLAYOFFS

After climb in standings, Texas faces tall task vs. Price

The Texas Rangers have arrived in Toronto with a chip on their shoulder.

Being overlooked by the bookmakers and others has only served to motivate the AL West champions as they prepare to meet the surging Blue Jays on Thursday in the American League Division Series.

Texas manager Jeff Bannister says there are plenty of emotions in his clubhouse.

"I think it's full of energy, belief, confidence," he said Wednesday. "But yet they're the ones that aren't being given a chance. So I also think that there's a little different edge. And I thank you all."

The Rangers have already worked one miracle under their rookie manager, climbing from last place in the American League (67-95) in 2014 to make the playoffs. Only four other teams in the majors have done that before.

Toronto manager John Gibbons sees the ALDS contest as more of an "even matchup."

"Our teams are very similar," he said. "Good offences. Balanced. They've got some pretty good team speed over there."

And they both went out and made big pitching acquisitions, with Toronto trading for David Price and Texas picking up Cole Hamels. They also looked to bolster their bullpens.

"Both GMs attacked it the same way," said Gibbons. "They saw what they needed and they went out and did it."

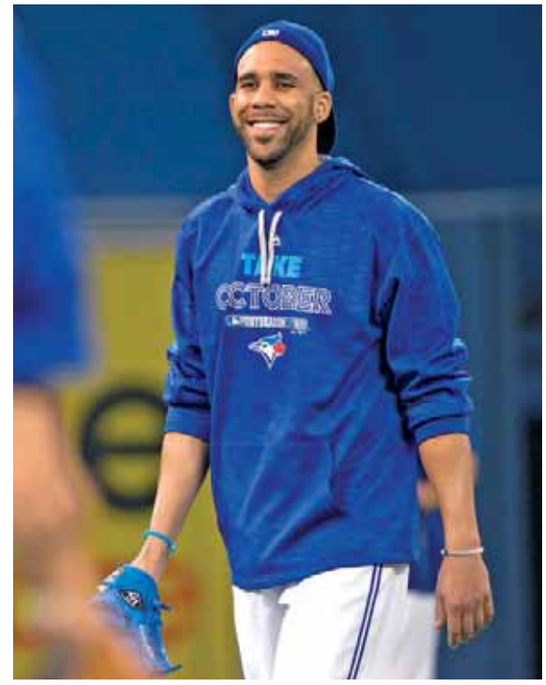
Toronto sends out Price, its left-handed ace, against right-hander Yovani Gallardo as postseason baseball returns to the Rogers Centre for the first time since 1993.

Price is 9-1 as a Blue Jay with an earned-run average of 2.30. Over his career, he is 11-1 at the Rogers Centre.

He comes into Thursday's game on 11 days rest, with his last real outing Sept. 26 in Tampa.

And yet the former Tampa Bay and Detroit pitcher is 1-5 in the playoffs with a 4.50 ERA.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The acquisition of David Price has made many critics believe in the Blue Jays. RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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THEN and NOW

Boasting some of the gaudiest stats in baseball, the Jays are back in the playoffs after a 22-year drought. Here's how the 2015 club measures up to the last title-winning outfit.

1993 TEAM STATISTICS 2015

PITCHING

1993		2015
4.21 (15th in MLB)	ERA	3.80 (12th in MLB)
1,023 (6th in MLB)	Strikeouts	1,117 (26th in MLB)
134 (9th in MLB)	Home Runs Allowed	173 (12th in MLB)

BATTING

1993		2015
796 (3rd in MLB)	RBIs	852 (1st in MLB)
159 (9th in MLB)	Home Runs	232 (1st in MLB)
1,556 (2nd in MLB)	Hits	1,480 (6th in MLB)

TALKING MONEY

1993		2015
Payroll		
$78,236,200 (1st in MLB)		$115,901,600 (13th in MLB)
Season Results		
95 - 67 Won Lost		93 - 69 Won Lost
Payroll per Game		
$482,939		$715,441
Highest Paid Player		
$9,183,978.85 Joe Carter		$20,000,000 Mark Buehrle
Attendance		
4,057,947 Fans		2,794,891 Fans

KEY MOMENTS

2015

The team went into the all-star break with a mediocre record of 42-39

Josh Donaldson (41), Jose Bautista (40) and Edwin Encarnacion (39) all hit over 30 home runs

August was the best month in team history with 21 wins in 27 games

1993

Reliever Duane Ward set a franchise record with 45 saves

Four members went on to become Hall-of-Famers
- Paul Molitor
- Rickey Henderson
- Roberto Alomar
- Pat Gillick (GM)

The Blue Jays ultimately went on to win the World Series for a second year in a row.

SOURCES ESPN.com, baseball-reference.com
Inflation calculated at 2.32%

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How the Flyin' Hawaiian single-handedly won it

CFL

Veteran's catch to beat Ottawa was all about training hard

It was about an hour prior to game time Tuesday. Chad Owens wanted to work on catching drills. The Toronto Argonauts veteran slotback stood at the goal line with his back to receivers coach Jaime Elizondo, who held the ball at the 10-yard line.

As soon as Owens turned around, Elizondo fired the ball at him, sometimes slightly out of reach so Owens had to stretch to make a one-handed grab. That preparation came in handy later that evening as the five-foot-eight Owens literally rose to the occasion.

With less than 30 seconds on the clock and the Argos down by four points, Owens hauled in a you-gotta-see-this, one-handed diving catch for the winning TD in Toronto's 38-35 victory over the Ottawa Redblacks.

Chad Owens TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It was the Flyin' Hawaiian at his best. "You never know when the work you put in is going to pay off," said Owens, who was born in Honolulu.

Owens said he was inspired by New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., who practises one-handers too.

When quarterback Trevor Harris let the pass go, he thought he was right on the money. Not so fast.

"I put a lot of air under it because I wanted to give him time to dig and run underneath it," Harris said. Jim Barker, the Argos' general manager, just muttered the word, "Wow," as he passed reporters before disappearing inside the dressing room. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Signing embroils Bills in a kicker controversy

The Bills signed veteran kicker Billy Cundiff on Wednesday in a move that leaves Dan Carpenter's future uncertain in Buffalo following his latest missed field goal.

Though Carpenter remains a member of the Bills, coach Rex Ryan called it "a possibility" the number will be down to one by Sunday, when Buffalo (2-2) travels to play Tennessee (1-2).

Buffalo also shuffled its returners by releasing Marcus Thigpen and signing Denarius Moore.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Durant back in game action

It has been eight months since Kevin Durant played in an NBA game.

The Oklahoma City star who suffered through a gruelling process to mend his broken right foot said the layoff seemed "like years," but the wait is finally over.

Durant was set to make his long-awaited return to the court on Wednesday night when the Thunder opened the pre-season in Minnesota. He missed 55 games last season and needed three surgeries to repair a dreaded Jones fracture in his foot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE Mediterranean Pasta with Basil and Artichokes

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This dish is simple but roasting the veg gives it real depth of flavour.

Ready in 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 red peppers, seeded and cut into wedges
- 1 red onion, cut into wedges
- 3 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped
- 1 tsp brown sugar
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 small ripe tomatoes, quartered
- 1 can artichoke hearts, drained, rinsed, and quartered lengthwise
- Handful of fresh basil leaves
- 3 Tbsp of grated Parmesan
- 1/2 lb dry pasta

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Scatter the peppers, red onion and garlic in a large roasting tin. Toss with sugar, oil and salt and pepper.

2. Roast for 15 minutes, toss in the tomatoes and artichokes and roast for another 15 minutes until everything is soft and golden brown.

3. While the vegetables are roasting, cook the pasta in a large saucepan of salted boiling water according to package instructions. Drain well.

4. Remove the vegetables from the oven, tip in the pasta and toss lightly. Tear the basil leaves on top and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

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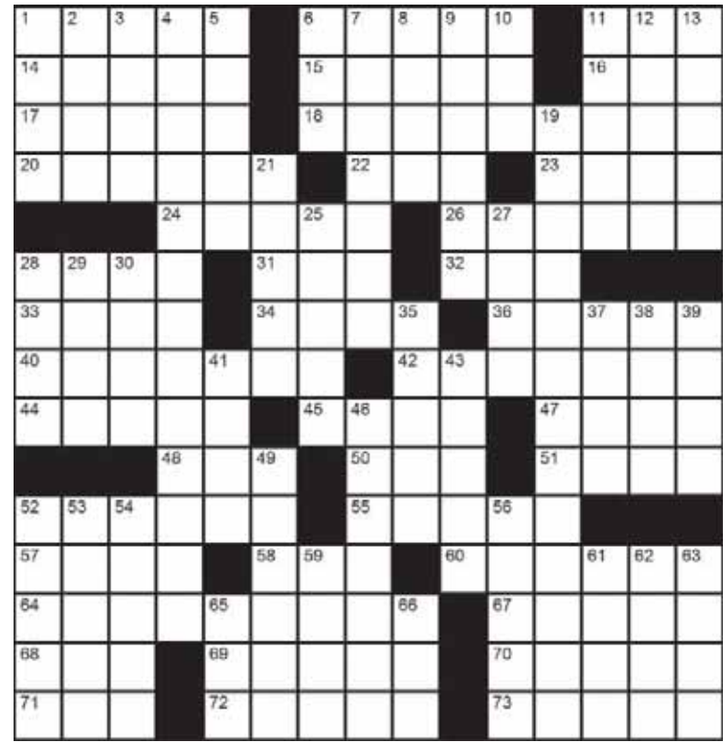
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS

1. Colour in a bouquet
6. "Fortune is painted blind, with a muffler __ her eyes..." - Shakespeare
11. Whiz
14. __ Arden (1864 poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson)
15. Clear debt
16. Delivery vehicle
17. Intense
18. Indicator to a dinner party guest of where to be seated: 2 wds.
20. __ tires (Michelin products)
22. Le: English
23. It's buzzing with activity
24. '60s abstractionism: 2 wds.
26. Lurched
28. Red carpet design
31. __ Beta Kappa
32. Wife of Thor
33. Middle-__
34. __ up (Absorbs)
36. Streamlets
40. Took hours getting ready for the party
42. Make balanced: 2 wds.
44. Marsh grower
45. Cap-_-_ (From head to toe)
47. __ pants (Casual/fitness wear)
48. U.K. mil. service
50. Mariner's dir.
51. Foretoken
52. Self-defence developed in the Ryukyu archipelago (mainly Okinawa) of Japan meaning 'empty hand'
55. Concealed
57. Larger-than-life
58. Research paper, e.g.
60. Fruity frozen dessert
64. Pond's product: 2 wds.
67. Vacate
68. Winter water
69. Electrical pioneer Nikola
70. Facilitated
71. Hi-__ graphics
72. Tend the fire
73. Get garmented

DOWN

1. Big name in corporate jets
2. Empire of Peru
3. Garish, as garments
4. French for 'Happy Thanksgiving': Joyeuse _ _ _
5. "Surrender" by __ Trick
6. Alsatian artist Jean
7. Marker's writing part
8. Moonfish
9. Fast track drivers
10. 1982 Alan Parsons Project hit: "__ in the Sky"
11. Be of service
12. Prepare the Tofurky for serving
13. Wrapped up
19. Competitive series on Food Network Canada: 4 wds.
21. Memory mistake
25. Friend to Mary and Phyllis
27. W.B. Yeats' land
28. Openings
29. Troll
30. Garden intruder
35. River of Paris
37. Rug-making apparatus
38. Winter sport
39. Mr. Laurel of funny movies
41. Orderly
43. Swerves
46. Coach's rallying delivery: 2 wds.
49. Weasel relative
52. Fermented milk product
53. Speedily
54. Basmati and Wild
56. Dished out
59. Money in Mexico
61. Headquarters
62. Mark Twain story, __ Diary
63. "Bill & __ Excellent Adventure" (1989)
65. Belonging to Hartford's li'l state
66. "Maggie __" by The Beatles

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Like everyone you can be a creature of habit but at the moment you must strive to be more original. Create your own pathway to success.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Don't waste your precious energy on people and situations that bring you no benefit. Your main priority now is to set yourself targets that pay off for you in the long-term, not for others in the short-term.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You feel out of touch with what is going on around you. Everyone else seems to be tuned in to events that mean nothing to you. Don't worry, you are not missing much. Others envy you for being so independent.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You will find it difficult to keep your nose out of other people's business today. You know what curiosity did to the proverbial cat, don't you?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Money matters will figure prominently. There is a lot at stake at the moment, so do whatever it takes to maximize your profits and minimize your losses.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You have done a lot of thinking over the past few weeks and you have come to a lot of conclusions about what you need to do to make your life more enjoyable. Now all you have to do is apply those conclusions to everyday activities.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
For some reason you are taking certain things personally when, in reality, they have nothing to do with you at all. Get over yourself and get past the notion that the powers that be are ganging up on you. They're not.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It may seem as if everyone is being critical of you but that's an exaggeration. The only people questioning you are the ones who care for you the most. Listen to what they say.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may say that you don't care what the world thinks of you but deep down you do and cosmic activity in the career area of your chart will give you the chance to impress.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something that never interested you before will grab your attention today and you will spend every spare moment trying to understand it. Others may think you have lost your mind but they don't see the possibilities you do.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will find yourself thinking deeply about the big questions of life that most people tend to ignore. Does life have meaning? If so, what is it?

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
The only way you are going to get ahead is to co-operate — not just with friends and colleagues but with rivals too. Focus on what unites you, not on what keeps you apart.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty
5-year/Unlimited km 24 Hour Roadside Assistance

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